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## LETTERS

### BIG EIGHT ACTION WELCOMED

It's good to be into the Big Eight portion of the schedule. While I like seeing Nebraska play teams like Arizona State and Washington (even though we lost), this is the part of the schedule that I enjoy the most. I would rather see a Nebraska-Missouri game than Nebraska-Utah State or Nebraska-Northern Illinois.

I think that Coach Osborne has found a winning combination in Keithen McCant and Derek Brown. McCant appears to have gained the confidence needed in his skills to become a great leader on the field. Brown's moves remind me of Mike Rozier and Johnny Rodgers. He looks like he will be one of the best before he is through at Nebraska.

I would love to see a feature story on McCant. I always enjoy reading features on Nebraska players. It helps the fans to see more of the players than just a helmet and jersey.

Ben Reynolds  
Omaha, Neb.

*Ben: You have perfect timing. Look*

*for a feature story on the senior quarterback in this week's issue.*

### DEVIL HOSPITALITY

My friends and I made the trek from Tucson to Phoenix for the Nebraska-Arizona State game and we had a great time. Not only were the majority of the Sun Devil fans very kind to us (even though we were rooting for the "enemy"), but the Huskers looked great. It was good to see Coach Osborne and his staff motivate Nebraska back into the win column.

Keep up the good work, Coach! There are fans all across the nation pulling for you to beat Colorado and Oklahoma and make it back to the Orange Bowl.

Larry Hill  
Tucson, Ariz.

### HI IS A CUT ABOVE THE REST

As a Pennsylvania resident, I must tell you how envious my friends are of your magazine. I have several coworkers who are big Penn State fans. The Nittany Lions have a magazine called *Blue/White Illustrated*, which is

printed on newspaper. They bring copies of it to the office but doesn't compare to *HUSKERS*. Your centerspreads and color photography are wonderful. Plus I don't get black ink on my hands when I read your magazine.

I have subscribed to your publication for three years and it gets better every issue. Keep up the good work — it makes other schools' fans jealous.

Paul Fikes  
Altoona, Pa.

### BIASED IN COLORADO

Boy the media here in Colorado really burns me. The day after Nebraska lost to Washington, the media couldn't wait to talk about how Nebraska couldn't win the big game and Tom Osborne was headed for another bad season.

First of all, a "bad" season for Coach Osborne is 10-2 or 9-3. There's nothing bad about that record at all. Until recently, Colorado would have given anything to have nine wins in two seasons, much less one. Coach Osborne is one of the best fundamental coaches in the nation and a true gentleman.



A tip of our wings to the  
1991 Nebraska Cornhuskers.

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## NEBRASKA HUSKER FOOTBALL 1991 SCHEDULE

- Sept. 7 Utah State
- Sept. 14 Colorado State
- Sept. 21 Washington (ABC-TV)
- Sept. 28 at Arizona State
- Oct. 12 at Oklahoma State
- Oct. 19 Kansas State (Homecoming)
- Oct. 26 Missouri
- Nov. 2 at Colorado
- Nov. 9 at Kansas
- Nov. 16 Iowa State
- Nov. 29 Oklahoma (ABC-TV)

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Secondly, Nebraska proved the media wrong by beating a ranked team (Arizona State) on the road. It's amazing how Colorado lost on the road to a Pacific-10 team (Stanford) and the Colorado media didn't jump on Bill McCartney. Isn't it also ironic that Colorado lost at home to Baylor (a team that is also undefeated) but no one is saying how Colorado is heading for a downfall. The Buffaloes are going to get stomped at Oklahoma and then have to drag themselves home to face the Huskers. Nebraska should wipe the turf with them.

I can't wait to see the Colorado media after Hagan and company are thrashed by the two Big Reds. They'll probably be too busy making excuses for the losses to print anything negative about their own team. Amazing, isn't it?

Tim Jones  
Aurora, Colo.

#### PLANNING AHEAD FOR 1992

Has there been a schedule released for next season? If so, could you please print it. I have also heard that the Huskers might be playing at one of the Southwest Conference schools in the near future. Is that true? I would love to see the Huskers without having to drive to Oklahoma. Thanks.

Pete Royster  
El Paso, Texas

Pete: Here's the 1992 schedule. Remember that dates and games are subject to change:

Sept. 5 ..... Utah  
Sept. 12 ..... Temple  
Sept. 19 ..... at Washington  
Sept. 26 ..... Arizona State  
Oct. 10 ..... Oklahoma State  
Oct. 24 ..... at Missouri  
Oct. 31 ..... Colorado (HC)  
Nov. 7 ..... Kansas  
Nov. 14 ..... at Iowa State  
Nov. 21 ..... at Oklahoma  
Dec. 6 ..... Kansas State (Tokyo)

The Huskers have two open dates next season in October. It's also ironic that Colorado comes to Lincoln on Halloween for Homecoming.

Nebraska is scheduled to play Texas Tech at Lubbock in 1994. The Red Raiders pay a visit to Lincoln in 1993.

#### SEEING ORANGE

Nebraska's win over Arizona State may have been the biggest for the

# Huskers Illustrated

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Huskers since they beat Oklahoma in 1988 to head to the Orange Bowl.

Coach Osborne finally got the monkey off of his back by beating a ranked team, but the Huskers also shook the stigma of giving up after a loss to a highly-ranked team. Everyone said that Nebraska collapsed after it lost to Colorado last season, but what was left to play for? The national championship and Big Eight title were out of reach. This season still has a long way to go before it is over. Nebraska still has to play Colorado and OU to see which of the three goes to the Orange Bowl. The Washington loss didn't hurt Nebraska's chances of reaching Miami.

The Huskers will conquer the Big Eight and return to Miami.  
Ben Higgins  
Lincoln, Neb.

*We want to hear your comments and we will try to answer your questions. Please send your comments to "Letters," P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb., 68501. If you have a picture of your favorite Husker fan, send it in. They might appear in this section.*

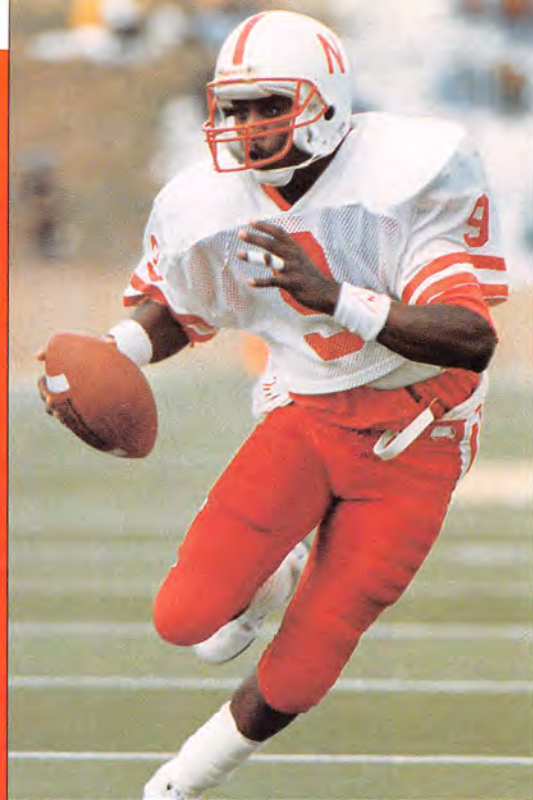
#### WHERE'S STEVE?

I am a big Steve Taylor fan. I was hoping that once Steve left Nebraska he would make it in the NFL as a defensive back or wide receiver. I think that he has the talent and potential to be good at either of those positions.

When Steve was available in the NFL draft, did a team draft him? My friends say that he was never tabbed in the draft, but I think they are wrong. Could you help us out on this matter?

Kevin Fulton  
Sioux City, Iowa

Kevin: Taylor was drafted in the 12th round of the 1989 draft by the Indianapolis Colts after he finished his days at Nebraska. However, Taylor never played for the Colts heading instead to the Canadian Football League.



Steve Taylor

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**M**aturity. The difference between having it and not having it is the difference between sitting on the bench and starting at quarterback for the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

For Keithen McCant, maturity means all the difference in the world.

Now, the 6-foot-2, 205-pound senior, is the engineer of the best offense in the Big Eight. A year ago, as he had for three years previous, McCant was the leader of the scout team quarterbacks and rarely even saw mopup action with the Nebraska varsity.

"I've matured. That's all there is to it," said McCant, a native of Grand

Prairie, Texas. "I know about offense. I've always known about offense.

"But I'm not sure I understood all the different facets of using the offense to it's fullest. I'm not sure I understood how to react to defenses either and that's why I was on the bench for four years," he said.

Since he jumped to the No. 1 spot at quarterback, McCant has led the Cornhusker offense to: 526.75 yards a game (second in the nation); 383.5 yards rushing per game (second in the nation); and, 42.5 points a game (fifth in the nation).

He gives the Cornhuskers a threat at passing and running that no other

quarterback on the team can give, Coach Tom Osborne said.

"In terms of athletic ability, we've always thought Keithen had the most of both," he said. "He just didn't read defenses that well and he had trouble adjusting to the option game."

McCant was a standout in high school at quarterback. He threw for more than 1,500 yards as a senior and was recruited widely.

Current Nebraska Assistant Coach Kevin Steele was at Oklahoma State when he recruited McCant to OSU. "I told him he would take us to the national championship and, even though I'm at Nebraska now, I still believe he can be that type of quar-





# FINALLY

# McCANT

# KNOWS OFFENSE

By Paul Hammel

After four years on the bench,

NU's senior quarterback

got the hang

of option football.



terback," Steele said.

"He was strong, quick, agile and had a great, winning attitude," Steele said. "It's obvious, he has that feeling back."

It just took awhile, McCant said.

"When I came out of high school I only knew the dropback style of offense," he said. "I didn't know option football, because we just hadn't run it. It set me back for a long time here in Nebraska."

McCant admitted he also didn't have the maturity to press himself to learn the new talents he had to have

to fit in with the Cornhuskers. "I was trying, but not hard enough," he said.

Osborne said, "We knew Keithen had the skills and we knew all along that whenever he got consistent that he was going to get his shot."

Finally, this fall, when McCant was staring at his last chance to play college football, he turned on the jets.

He pressed Tom Haase and Mickey Joseph for the top position from the first day of fall camp. When Haase was injured, McCant moved up to No. 2. When Joseph struggled with passing in the season opener,



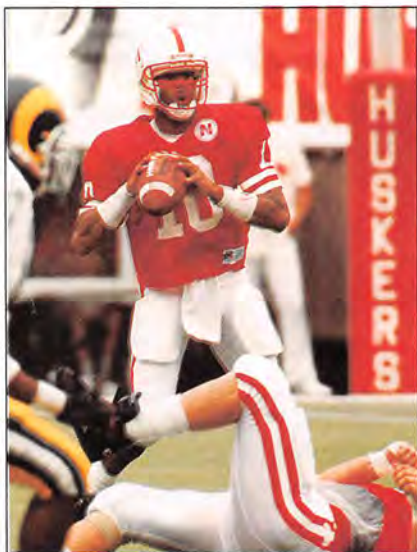
McCant was pressed into duty in the second quarter against Utah State. He's been on top ever since.

And that's a big concern for McCant. "All I've got to do is let this thing go to my head and forget how fast all the good things happened, and the bad things will happen to me even quicker," he said.

"My mother told me you can go down as fast as you go up in anything you try so you have to keep trying harder every day, every practice," he said.

That part of growing up was easy to accept because it was always a part of McCant's life at home.

"Playing little league and things like



that, my mom was always there for our games and all the way up to high school she never missed a game," McCant said.

"My mom has always been there when I needed her. And she was the one who taught me I had to think for myself. I had to make my own choices and my own decisions and learn to live with them," he said.

The son of Melba Thompson found that was not always as easy as it seemed.

He asked his mother to help him choose a college, and she said it was time for him to make his own choice and stick with it.

He chose Nebraska, but he wasn't happy.

"I wasn't playing and I didn't understand the offense here," McCant said. "There was a lot of competition for quarterback and I wasn't really in the race because I was so far behind everybody in understanding what was going on."

Still, his mother talked him into

**Steele told McCant when he recruited him that Keithen could take the team to the national championship.**

staying.

"She thought it would teach me how to survive," he said. "She felt if I would go to one of the schools in Texas that I'd always be home. If things got bad it'd be a good excuse to run right back home. She's right. It helped me out a lot.

"I think it's going to help me down the road in real life. When I got here, I had to grow up and I had to make a lot of decisions on my own. I'm not saying all of my decisions were right, but I've learned from my mistakes and I'm still learning."

For instance, McCant said he has learned that if he lets up at all in his drive to stay the starting quarterback, he'll hear about it.

In an 18-9 win over Arizona State, McCant was responsible for a touchdown pass to Jon Bostick and for scoring a touchdown on a quarterback sneak. He also helped the Cornhuskers rally from a 9-8 deficit in the third quarter to beat a ranked team for the first time in six tries since 1988.

But he also found, after watching game films, more than a dozen things he could have improved.

"The big one was the hook slides I took after a couple of scrambles," he said. "My shoulder had been hurting me and I was just protecting myself.

"So I did a couple of hook slides to avoid the big hits. Boy, did I hear about that in the Monday meetings. And you can bet, there'll never be any more hook slides by me or any other Nebraska quarterback.

"It's just not our style and whether I think I'm

**McCant's arm (above left) was his main weapon in high school, but he has shown he can high step into the endzone (right) with the best.**



protecting myself or not, I'll never do it again," he said.

Osborne agreed. "I don't think we wanted a pro-style quarterback, but I think we've got that straightened out now," he said.

"Keithen has played well and he's getting better every game. He's checking off the calls better and he's getting more out of the offense each time he goes out," he said.

Learning to use all the tools a quarterback has at his fingertips is one of the hardest parts of learning football, McCant said.

"We've got such great skill people. Jon Bostick, Johnny Mitchell, Derek Brown, all our backs and receivers give me a lot of choices," he said.

The Nebraska quarterbacks also have a new array of plays to choose from, too.





Last spring, Osborne added a new series of rollout passes to go with the options and the traps as well as the usual power plays that have typified Nebraska offenses under Osborne.

Under the wide-open offense, McCant has run for 222 yards and passed for 410. He's scored three touchdowns rushing and thrown for four. He is currently eighth in the Big Eight in passing efficiency with a 109.0 rating and has a 49.21 completion percentage. He is sixth in the Big Eight in total offense and leads the conference in touchdown rating.

"I'm getting more comfortable with the offense and with my own skills the more I play," McCant said. "I really don't worry about statistics, other than if we have more points than the other team at the end of Saturday's game.

"I haven't played my best game yet. I hope I play my best, but I hope I never play the game where everything is perfect, because that's when you should hang it up. As soon as you're satisfied, you can't get any better, you're no good to anyone," he said.

Osborne said McCant seems to understand the demands of playing quarterback better than he did in the past.

"I'm not sure he was not just paying attention, but he had other things going on in his life for awhile. He has become more focused," he said.

And while McCant has improved as a football player, he's also found a new focus in schoolwork, too.

"I think the new level of concentration I have on football has helped my schoolwork improve, too," McCant said. "I plan on getting my degree in crimi-

**Hard work and patience gave McCant the chance to move from backup to Tom Haase (right) and Mickey Joseph (below), into a starter position.**



pro football. Last week, McCant was one of the Cornhusker seniors that scouts from the Buffalo Bills, Kansas City Chiefs, Pittsburgh Steelers and Cincinnati Bengals were watching go through a practice.

"I don't worry about pro football, but I wouldn't have a chance at all if I wasn't playing now," McCant said. "I've got so much to learn yet about this offense and about us becoming a better offense that I can't worry

past the next game.

"Besides, if I don't work to improve, there'll be somebody as hungry as me taking over the job as starting quarterback. There's always somebody trying hard to get to the top.

"It happens in acting, baseball, basketball everything in life," McCant said. "There's always somebody new coming along and somebody who wants to be on top.

"If you get there, you've got to keep trying and keep working harder than you did to get there in the first place," he said.

"Right now, it's hard work, but it's a lot more fun than it was in the past for me. There's a certain pressure and it's a 24-hour a day thing, but the reward is great enough for the price." ■

nal justice this spring and I have always had a dream of working for the FBI or doing some private investigations or something in that field."

He may also have an opportunity for

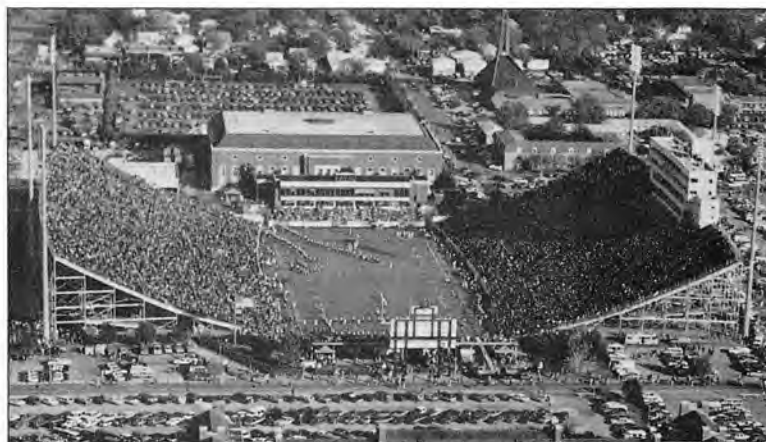


**Becoming an FBI agent has always been a goal of McCant's, but his play this season may get him a shot at the NFL.**





**OSU Head Coach Pat Jones says Memorial Stadium in Nebraska (left) is the loudest stadium in the Big Eight, but his own Lewis Field in Stillwater owns the distinction of being the only stadium to run east-west instead of north-south.**



**I**t was one of those great moments in sports that you're not going to forget for some time. Officials gave Colorado a fifth down in its game with Missouri last year and the Buffaloes used the play to score a touchdown to beat the stunned Tigers.

After the game was concluded, Colorado Coach Bill McCartney did not want to talk about the extra play the generous officiating crew gave his team. All McCartney wanted to do was complain about Faurot Field. It was definitely the field that kept the Tigers in the game McCartney lamented.

Last year, when Oklahoma played at Missouri, the Sooners' charter flight was late. Gary Gibbs had intended to get there in time so that his team could practice on the dreaded artificial surface. But by the time the delayed charter arrived, the sun had set. So much for practice on the field.

Well, Gibbs wasn't going to let a little darkness keep his players from a workout on the field. He had a couple of buses pull up near the end zone and pull on their headlights. Yes, the Sooners had their practice.

After Illinois was beaten by Missouri this year, Illini Coach John Mackovic blamed, you guess it, the field. He said it was a disgrace. It was so slippery his players couldn't stand up, never mind run.

The field! The stadiums! Can a field or a certain stadium come back to haunt you psychologically? The answer is a resounding yes.

"It definitely can have a psychological effect on you," says Oklahoma State Coach Pat Jones. "You're trying to figure out what shoes you have to wear. It can become a mind game. We wear rain shoes on that field. The field just isn't very good. When they put it down they got in a rush. It's a sand base that

# The STADIUM Factor

**The advantage of staying home.**

is really slick."

"No doubt the field is a factor. The footing problems everyone has on that field is definitely a concern for any opponent," Gibbs said. "That's why we tried to go up there and work out on a Friday last year before the game. When Colorado played there, they didn't work out the day before the game. Bill McCartney later said that was a mistake and it played some part in the game."

**Missouri's Faurot Field has been the site of many controversies over the years.**



But Missouri isn't the only place that causes problems in the Big Eight Conference. When you go to Boulder these days you have to worry about all that talent McCartney has assembled. There are also other worries.

"The crowd is right on top of you. And they sell beer there so the crowd really gets rowdy," Jones says. "There's one guy up there who blisters me every time we go there. They're so close, I can hear every word he says. And then if you're there late in the year and it's snowing, you can be sure that the fans will be firing snowballs at you."

Gibbs added a little more on the subject of Colorado.

"Colorado fans are among the rowdiest we play because of the sale of beer. But the key thing up there is to make sure you don't get in the way of Ralphie (Colorado's mascot, the Buf-falo)."

Now Jones may have a little different view of going to Iowa State every other year than some other people around the country. You see the Cowboys usually play the Cyclones in late November. You don't exactly get a suntan in Ames, Iowa, in late November.

"You talk about a psychological advantage for someone," Jones begins. "You have to give that to Iowa State. You think some of the players we have from south Texas have ever been in cold weather like that?"

"We've played up there when the weather has been like arctic conditions. It was freezing. It has been colder there and had worse weather conditions than when we played Oklahoma in the 'Ice Bowl' in Stillwater in 1985. I think

when some of our players go to Ames and see the weather they become big-eyed."

And when you head to Nebraska you get to see a sea of red that the loyal Husker fans always wear. Are they very intimidating?

"I think they have good fans in Nebraska. They are very vocal and loud. As far as intimidation goes, I've never found a crowd that has been intimidating to our team," says Gibbs.

Jones says he thinks Nebraska is one of the more intimidating places his teams have played

during his coaching experiences.

"Nebraska is definitely the loudest place in the league," he said. I think it's in the north end zone where everyone is so bottled up that it is so loud. It isn't the structure of the stadium that makes Nebraska an intimidating place, it's the noise there."

And what about Owen Field in Norman? There's a crown in the middle of the field, and some coaches swear that makes the running backs go faster. Jones laughed.

"If you have a Billy Sims, a Joe Washington or a Barry Sanders running there, they are going to look fast. That's because they look fast where ever they run. No, I don't think that has anything to do with the speed. The crown certainly isn't a factor with speed."

What about the intimidation of Norman?

"When Oklahoma is really loud, it can be an intimidating place," Jones said. "But it hasn't been that way the



### Colorado's Folsom Field

last five or six years or so."

The Cowboy skipper thinks Stillwater can be a very difficult place to play.

"At our place and in Colorado the fans are right on top of you. I think that makes it very difficult. And when we have a big game the fans can really get loud. I think it can be a difficult place for opposing teams to play."

Lewis Field in Stillwater is the only field that the end zones are in an east-west direction, instead of the traditional north-south.

Gibbs mused.

"It's a good place because everyone can see the sun rise and sun set." ■



**Oklahoma's Memorial Stadium (above) has a crown in the middle that makes backs look fast. OU Coach Gibbs says the key to playing in Boulder is avoiding Ralphie (left).**





All eyes were on Joe Wylie's punt as the spiralling football sailed into the gray November sky.

Johnny Rodgers, who was waiting on Nebraska's 28-yard line, was one of those watching the ball on that Thanksgiving afternoon in 1971. Rodgers' skills on the football field were no secret weapon for the defending national champions and nationally ranked No. 1 Huskers. In fact, Rodgers, who won the

was safe. The 171-pound junior dodged the first Oklahoma defender, started to his right, cut back to his left, repeated those moves while dodging more Sooners and sped down the left sideline to score a touchdown.

The 72-yard punt return gave Nebraska a 7-0 lead with only 3:32 gone in one of college football's classic encounters. Every other touchdown in Nebraska's 35-31 triumph over the No. 2-ranked Sooners in Norman, Okla., that day came on drives of more than 50

"The thing I look back on is how many times we practiced on our specialty teams," said Pruitt. "I was the first guy to miss Johnny on that punt return. There was great competition between us, and I got excited. I had him and let him go."

The play was not without controversy. Some observers thought Nebraska clipped on Rodgers' punt return for the touchdown, but no clip was called. And Oklahoma players claimed OU recovered a Jeff Kinney fumble on the play preceding his run for Nebraska's winning touchdown in the fourth quarter. The officials ruled no fumble.

"When something like that happens, the other team wants a penalty called," said Fairbanks "But it didn't happen. It was a great individual effort on Rodgers' part."

"Over the years, those things level off. In a game when there's 30-something points scored on both sides, you can't look back and say, 'This one play was the deciding play.'"

"I thought it was a well officiated game, not because we won, but because the game went on without a lot of whistle blowing," said Bob Devaney, head coach of the Cornhuskers in 1971. "I'd like to think it was the quality of the teams."

"Kinney bobbled the ball on one

## The Game of the Century

Part III

by Jim Weeks

Heisman Trophy the next season, was the most explosive of all Nebraska's weapons.

"Rodgers is the guy who really scares me, especially on their kicking teams," said Steve Aycock, Oklahoma's defensive leader, before the contest. "I've seen him break open more games than I care to remember. We've been practicing all week on keeping our punts high. That's our only chance against him,"

Oklahoma had been stopped on its first series of the game and Wylie kicked the ball 36 yards, forcing Rodgers to field it at the Nebraska 28-yard line, normally a safe distance from the opposing goal. But with Rodgers, no distance

yards.

"The amazing thing is that we had pretty good coverage on that punt," recalled Chuck Fairbanks, Oklahoma head coach at the time. "As a matter of fact, we probably should have made the tackle right after he caught the ball. He made (Greg) Pruitt miss him right after he caught the ball. They had set the thing up to be a return to their right. Rodgers was such a great athlete, he saw the coverage was pretty good there and went the opposite way without any wall and got loose down the left-hand side."

play. Of course, we didn't think he fumbled, because we're on his side. It was a close call," Devaney said of the possible clip on Rodgers' punt return.

The game was so well played only one penalty was called. On Nebraska's first offensive series of the second half, senior left guard Dick Rupert jumped offsides before the ball was snapped. Nebraska was penalized five yards.

Although he was not as productive as usual, Rodgers played key roles in Nebraska's victory. Rodgers rushed four times for 27 yards, caught five passes for 61 yards and returned another punt for eight yards. One of Rodgers' pass receptions came on a

key, third-down play during Nebraska's march to the Cornhuskers' winning touchdown.

"They played Johnny real tough," said Devaney. "They knew that he was the guy that broke the games open most of the time. His pass receiving was very important to us."

"Anytime Rodgers got his hands on the ball in a little daylight, he was hard to get a hold of," recalled Fairbanks. "He had fabulous quickness and unbelievable natural reflexes."

Pruitt had been Oklahoma's offensive star coming into the game, but the Cornhuskers neutralized his quickness and breakaway sprints. Pruitt, who had rushed for 1,423 yards, scored 15 touchdowns and gained 9.5 yards a carry in the previous nine games, gained only 53 yards on 10 carries against Nebraska.

"With the exception of a very few plays, they took away the pitchouts to Greg and the other halfbacks," said Oklahoma quarterback Jack Mildren. "In effect, Nebraska forced the other players, i.e., the fullback and quarterback, to try to beat them inside. They played one-on-one on (split end) Jon Harrison. And for one of the few times publicly, at least for those of us who knew him, Jon got the opportunity to show his true worth."

"When you're playing against great players, and, granted, they had a bunch of them, you have to change some of the things you do."

"Kinney for Nebraska and Pruitt for Oklahoma were the two top running backs," Devaney said. "Pruitt had a pretty good day and Kinney certainly played a tremendous part in our offense in controlling the ball making first downs and gaining the tough yardage."

Harrison, a high school teammate of Mildren, who had been forgotten because of Oklahoma's awesome running attack, had his best game as a college player. After catching only 11 passes in the previous nine games, Harrison had four receptions for 115 yards and hauled in touchdown passes of 24 and 17 yards from Mildren.

"We just couldn't cover Harrison one on one," Devaney said. "Although

we didn't think he was a good passer before the game, Mildren was like a pro passer that day."

Mildren completed 5 of 10 passes for 130 yards including the two touchdown tosses to Harrison.

Each team's defensive players were overshadowed because of the brilliant offensive plays. But middle guard Rich Glover, tackle Larry Jacobson and linebacker Bob Terrio led a Nebraska defense that was considered the best in the nation that season.

"Rich Glover had a great day on defense," Devaney said. "At one point, I facetiously told the rest of the defensive line that they ought to at least give Glover a little help."

Glover, who won the Outland Award and Lombardi Trophy the next season, was credited with 22 tackles. Terrio had 17 tackles and Jacobson, who won the 1971 Outland Award, had 14.

Junior tackle Lucious Selmon, who made 10 tackles, and linebackers Steve Aycock and Mark Driscoll, who had 11 tackles each, led the Sooners.

"Lucious had an extra burden in that game because of (end) Raymond (Hamilton) and (tackle) Derland (Moore) being nicked up a little bit," said Fairbanks. "With the kind of inside offense that Nebraska was running, your inside linebackers had a lot of opportunities. Aycock was tough. He didn't back off from anything."

"The Selmons were very much in our hair for a number of years," said Devaney. "More than I want to remember."

But when the game was decided in

the second half, Kinney became the player. The bruising, 210-pound senior rushed for 154 of his 174 yards in the second half and was a workhorse with 31 carries in the game. Kinney scored four of Nebraska's five touchdowns, including the winning touchdown with 1:38 remaining.

"We kind of just got down to basic football," said Nebraska quarterback Jerry Tagge, who rushed for 49 yards and completed 6 of 12 passes for 65 yards. "As the game wore on, I think our offensive and defensive lines were stronger than theirs. I think a large part of our success in that game can be credited to (strength coach) Boyd Epley. As the game wore on, we became more successful. Our running game picked up and Jeff Kinney went crazy. In the second half, we started to take control."

Kinney carried the ball on seven of the 12 plays, including the last four plays, during Nebraska's drive to its winning touchdown.

"We were trying to create some bad plays for them and Tagge did a great job of calling automatics," Fairbanks said. "And they were strong. They assaulted us more in the second half."

"Kinney reminded me somewhat of a Steve Owens-type of runner," Fairbanks said, referring to Oklahoma's 1969 Heisman Trophy winner. "He could see things well on the inside running. The last touchdown he scored, he made a good run on that play."

After the game Kinney said, "This was probably the most important game of my career, my life or anybody's life."

**Kinney was compared to Steve Owens after the game by OU Coach Chuck Fairbanks.**





# Best Times Come At Others' Demise

## *McCant does everything right in win over Oklahoma State.*

STILLWATER, Okla. — Keithen McCant was obviously enjoying himself and all the media attention. "This is the best time of my life," he said after directing Nebraska's 49-15 victory over Oklahoma State on Saturday.

That's easy enough to understand, given his performance against the Cowboys. The fifth-year senior quarterback from Grand Prairie, Texas, "wasn't far off the mark at all," said Coach Tom Osborne.

McCant was better than that in his passing. In fact, he was almost perfect, completing 17 of 19 for 231 yards and three touchdowns.

His efficiency rating for the game was 228.8, the third-best in Nebraska history. Only Steve Taylor (298.2) and Gerry Gdowski (294.0) have passed more efficiently.

"You can definitely tell he's a passing quarterback," said wingback Tyrone Hughes, who caught five of McCant's passes for 77 yards and a touchdown against the Cowboys.

That's what Osborne was looking for when he promoted McCant to No. 1 after the first game of the season. McCant's passing has given Nebraska's offense another dimension, which was particularly important against Oklahoma State's blitzing defense.

When the Cowboys loaded up against the run early in the game, daring McCant to pass, he did, with devastating accuracy. McCant completed his first eight passes and his streak probably wouldn't have ended even then except that the

ninth pass came on a fourth-and-two play.

McCant was under heavy pressure from the Cowboy defense and threw the ball away when he couldn't find an open receiver. Had it not been fourth down, McCant almost certainly would have held onto the ball and taken a loss.

accuracy didn't seem to surprise anyone. "Keithen has always been able to do that," Hughes said. "He has a great touch on the ball."

"He knows when to line it in there and when to soft-touch it."

McCant developed those skills in high school. His senior season, he passed for some 1,500 yards and 18 touchdowns, throwing an average of nearly 35 passes per game.

McCant's problems at Nebraska involved learning to run an option attack and consistency. Those problems were such that "we had just about despaired of ever seeing him play," Osborne said early in the week.

For the better part of four years, McCant languished. His freshman year he shared time with Tom Haase on a junior varsity team that finished 2-3. His second year, he redshirted. And he spent his third and fourth seasons on the lower units, never moving higher on the depth chart than fourth



**Despite Brown's banner day rushing, Osborne was unhappy with the consistency of the Husker running game.**

In that case, he would have thrown 12 completions in a row. His second unsuccessful pass was deflected and intercepted by the Cowboys.

McCant's ability to throw with such

string.

Now, almost miraculously, he's emerged as the clear-cut starter. Going into the Oklahoma State game, Osborne described McCant as a "pretty solid No. 1." And he certainly didn't do anything to change that.

McCant maintained his composure in the face of the Cowboy blitzes.

With those things comes confidence, according to Hughes. "He's getting to be more comfortable," said Hughes. "I

think he's able to relax more now. He's able to pick up the defenses, and he's getting a lot of support from the team."

Wingback Nate Turner, who caught four passes for 30 yards against Oklahoma State, said that he has seen dramatic improvement in McCant's ability to read defenses since the season began.

"He's settled in," Turner said. "He's a lot more confident."

McCant even got better during Nebraska's off-week, said Turner. "He grew so much (in practice) last week."

During a Friday scrimmage the weekend the Cornhuskers didn't have a game, McCant took 20 snaps without making a mistake, Osborne said.

McCant made mistakes against Oklahoma State. In addition to the interception, he was tackled in the end zone for a safety, after a disputed spot of the ball by the officials following an Oklahoma State punt that left the Cornhuskers with a first down at their own 1-yard line.

But his mistakes were more than offset by the positive things he did. McCant complemented his passing by averaging nearly five yards a carry on 10 carries. Early in the second half, on a second-and-three from the Oklahoma State 36-yard line, McCant ran 28 yards to set up Nebraska's fourth touchdown.

As with his passing, McCant's ability to tuck the ball away and run has taken some of the pressure off sopho-

more I-back Derek Brown, who ran for 100 or more yards for the fifth consecutive game this season.

The last Cornhusker to begin a season that way was Bobby Reynolds.

Brown carried 18 times for 143 yards and three touchdowns and is well on his way to a 1,000-yard season. He's already gained 674 yards, averaging barely 20 carries a game.

Despite Brown's success against the Cowboys, "I was a little disappointed about the consistency of our running game," Osborne said.

Nebraska's running attack might have lacked consistency, but it was explosive. Brown's first touchdown came on a 61-yard run, and his third touchdown was a 40-yarder.

Calvin Jones, Brown's backup, carried only five times but gained 45 yards. His fifth carry produced 18 of those yards, but he fumbled the ball away at the Oklahoma State 47.

By then, however, the Cornhuskers had established control by beating Oklahoma State at the line of scrimmage and taking advantage of openings created by the blitz.

"We left ourselves open for big plays a lot," said Jason Gildon, a Cowboy defensive end.

In blitzing situations, receivers usually find themselves going against man-to-man coverage. As a result, "there were a lot of open things," Turner said.

"You can't really blitz us because if you do, you'll pay for it. A lot of people don't understand the talent we have at the skill positions. You can't take us for granted."

Nebraska's first touchdown came on McCant's 34-yard pass to Hughes, barely four minutes into the game. The Cowboys blitzed and Hughes appeared to be left wide-open. As was the case all afternoon, McCant's pass was right on target. Hughes never broke stride.

The Cornhusker receivers are confident that if they get open, "Keithen's going to find you and get the ball to you," said Hughes.

McCant used five receivers against Oklahoma State, including Hughes. Mitchell and Turner each caught four passes. Split end Jon Bostick and freshman wingback Abdul Muhammad caught two passes apiece. One of Muhammad's was good for 31 yards and six points.

"The offense is designed to pass the ball around," Hughes said. "It has to be spread around enough for us to win, so the defense can't key on just one player (receiver)."

"The whole idea of our offense is to spread it around and let everyone do what they do best," said Turner, who had caught only two passes going into the Oklahoma State game. "But I knew sooner or later I'd get the ball. It was just a matter of time."

Now that Nebraska has shown it can

**Vernon Powell made sure that the Cowboy receivers (Rafael Denson, left, and Bert Milliner, right) paid the price for catching the ball.**





balance running with passing, "I think we'll keep a lot of defenses honest," McCant said.

McCant was quick to share the credit for his success, not only with his receivers and running backs but also with his offensive line, which has shown steady improvement.

"The linemen are doing well containing the defense," he said. Against Oklahoma State, "the trenches are what did it for us."

But everything begins with the quarterback and five games into the season, it appears the Cornhuskers can win with McCant in charge.

After four years of waiting, he's finally seized an opportunity to play. "I don't think I ever lost confidence in myself," McCant said. "I was just waiting for a chance."

It's not unusual for players to emerge for the first time in their fifth year at Nebraska. "It seems like over the years we've almost always had one or two who do," said Osborne.

Usually, however, they're offensive linemen, not quarterbacks. In that sense, McCant is unique.

Explaining McCant's dramatic emergence is difficult, if not impossible. "Maybe it's that we've shown some confidence in him," Osborne said. But that confidence is merited by

McCant's play.

He's improved significantly in "his consistency and his understanding of the game," Osborne said.

"I'm pleasantly surprised."

According to Turner, the surprises aren't over. McCant "is capable of doing more than that," Turner said after the Oklahoma State game. "He's a great athlete. And he's finally settled in."

In the interview room as well as on the field . . .

McCant was answering reporters' questions as calmly as he had read Oklahoma State's blitzes.

Hughes glanced at his teammate. McCant's composure in front of the television cameras was no surprise to him. "He's been around here," Hughes said. "Now he's used to this." ■



**Hughes (33, below) believes that McCant (above) has settled into the quarterback position, on and off the field.**



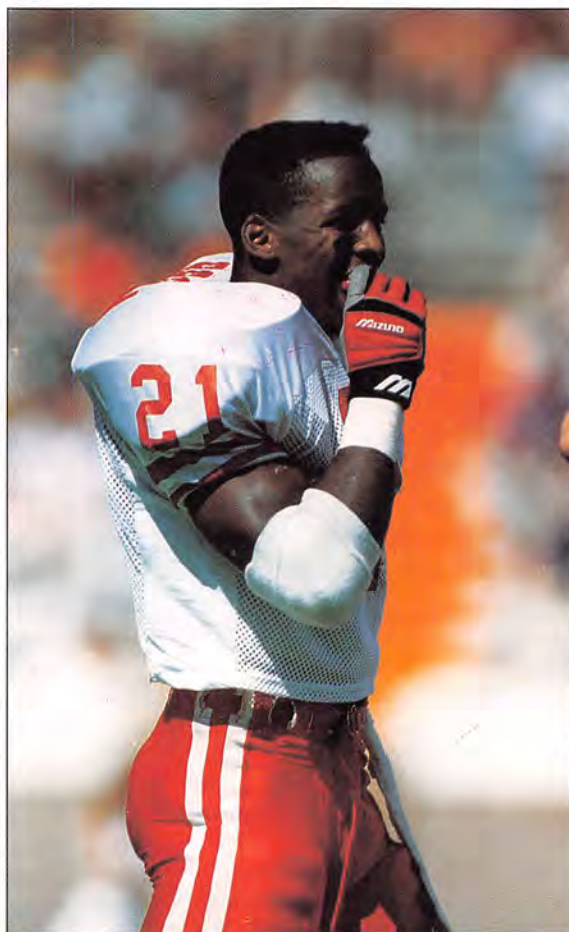


## No Surprises

STILLWATER, Okla. — It had all started out so perfect for Oklahoma State Head Coach Pat Jones. Weather conditions were favorable for a warm, fall afternoon of college football in Stillwater with highs around 81 degrees at kickoff and winds five miles per hour out of the east. Add to that the fact that a dismal 0-4 1991 football season could quickly be forgotten, or at least blocked from the mind of even the staunchest supporter of the orange and black, if Jones could only manage to open the Big Eight conference season with a win — a feat he has only accomplished twice in seven tries.

Even though the Cowboys had already dropped games to Tulsa and then No. 3 Miami on the road and a pair at home to Texas Christian and Arizona State, Jones believed his young squad had a fair chance to better Tom Osborne's Nebraska Cornhusker group which has owned Jones (7-0) since he became the Pokes' leader in 1984. "The way college football is now, nothing surprises you much," Jones had said.

But while Jones meant that OSU could surprise the critics



**Brown's vision of the Pokes was an orange blur most of the day. He sped past them for 143 yards.**

with a win over the 3-1 Huskers, the surprise was that there was no surprise. In fact the No. 14 Cornhuskers rolled to a 49-15 win in front of a crowd, that by game's end, resembled Memorial Stadium because of the abundance of red and the absence of the fleeting orange. It was during the fourth quarter that the orange began to wane as some of the 30,150 (on hand and Jones had the same sickening thought, "We have to punt again.")

Tyrone Hughes waited patiently as all eyes focused on Pokes punter Barry Vincent. Only moments before, Vincent had pinned the Huskers at their own 1-yard line after a 42-yard boot. That Husker possession ended with quarterback Keithen McCant being slammed into the turf for a safety by defensive end Jason Gildon. Minutes later OSU again began to whittle away at its 28-5 deficit after freshman kicker Rick Myers connected on a 37-yard field goal with 4:42 remaining in the third. A strange sound soon muffled the angry chants and boos that had only moments before resounded from the orange section. It was a cheer. While it never reached the decibel level of say, the Skydome, it was a heartening

### TWO WINNING TRADITIONS



and



### MID-CONTINENT BOTTLERS

709 N. 108 St.  
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402-498-0440

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Norfolk, NE  
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Lincoln, NE  
402-464-3163





**Strong safety Ernie Beler (23) nabbed a Poke aerial and returned it 22 yards.**

he threw the ball really well," Osborne said. "We decided to open it up a little today and he just had it working. They were putting a lot of guys up on the line of scrimmage and we felt we could throw well. We came into the game with the thought of putting it up about 25 times."

McCant set the tempo for the game early as the first play from scrimmage ended in a 4-yard completion to wing-back Nate Turner. Nebraska moved the ball from its own 37 to OSU's 34 with a mixture of passing and hard-nosed running by I-back Derek Brown. McCant, with enough protection to pick apart the Cowboys' secondary all day, hit Hughes on a crossing pattern for the first score after only 4:14 of play.

Osborne had said prior to the game that Nebraska would probably have to put the ball up in order to offset the Poke blitzes that he felt were more than likely to happen. "OSU doesn't just come with a few guys on their blitzes, they bring the whole kitchen sink," Osborne said. In 1983, the Cowboys brought the whole kitchen at a Nebraska team that had been labeled by *Sports Illustrated* as the best in college

sound for the Pokes.

After Hughes returned the punt 6 yards to the 50-yard line, Nebraska needed only 13 seconds to once again hush the crowd. On its second play of the drive McCant connected with Abdul Muhammad who had received only single coverage, for a 31-yard touchdown.

"I thought we threw the ball pretty well today and we knew we would have to do that," Osborne said. "We thought they would give us a lot of man-to-man and we wanted to take advantage of it."

Coming into the game Nebraska had only been averaging 143.3 yards of offense per game through the air. The low figure had as much to do with the power of the Husker ground game (which at 383.5 was third in the nation) as it did with the fact that McCant was only throwing an average of eight times a game. But Nebraska nearly tripled its attempts with 23 and increased its aerial production to 231. "Anytime an offense can throw 20 to 28 times and still have a ground game, there is a good

chance you will win. It just worked for us today," said McCant.

McCant had the best game of his career as he completed 17 of 19 for 231 yards and three touchdowns. For his effort, McCant received an efficiency rating of 228.8, the third best in Nebraska history. Only Steve Taylor's 298.2 rating against UCLA in 1987 and Gerry Gdowski's 294 against Oklahoma in 1989 are better.

"Keithen wasn't off much today and



**Aggie quarterback Kenny Ford probably saw Black Shirt mugs in his sleep following Saturday's whipping — here, Trev Alberts (No. 34)...**



## Mike Petko (No. 99)

football. Nebraska escaped Stillwater with a 14-10 win that year. "We went down there and after our first three plays we were facing a fourth-and-30," Osborne said. "They tried something bizarre and it worked."

In an attempt to nulify the Poke blitz, Nebraska utilized two to three receivers and a lone I-back. The scheme worked to perfection as Oklahoma State was forced to change up at the line and got stuck in man-to-man. "I think they geared their offense to take away some of the things we like to do defensively," Jones said.

"We really spread it out and I think that threw them off," Osborne said. "We used a lot of one-back formations because it is harder to blitz when you can't send the safety and linebacker."

While McCant had his fun with OSU's secondary, Brown made short work of the entire defense. Playing in a stadium that is famous for its running backs (such as Barry Sanders and Thurman Thomas), Brown was the back that resembled the OSU greats. OSU used five different backs including freshman sensation Rafael Denson, but still only managed 100 yards rushing. Brown managed 143 yards by himself, while the rest of the Husker backfield



RECAP at a GLANCE	9/7 Utah St.	9/14 Colo. St.	9/21 Washington	9/28 Arizona St.	10/12 OSU	SEASON AVG.
First Downs	43	29	15	19	21	25
Yards Rushing	617	529	135	253	273	361
Yards Passing	170	167	173	63	231	160
Fumbles-Lost	2-2	2-1	1-1	0-0	1-1	1-1
Time of Possession	16:12	28:27	24:22	34:43	25:10	26:18
Third Down Conversions	3-7	9-15	6-16	8-18	5-10	6-13
Final Score	59	71	21	19	49	44



contributed 130 yards. Late in the second quarter Brown became the first runner to start a season with five 100-yard games since All-American Bobby Reynolds did it in 1950.

After helping sustain the Huskers' first drive with four runs for 11 yards, Brown busted loose on the next series when he recovered from a trip in the backfield and ended up legging out a 61-yard run to put Nebraska up 14-0 in the first quarter. "I started having flashbacks of getting stopped in the backfield, but I just decided I wasn't going to go down," Brown said. The

**OSU kicker Rick Myers (No. 28) managed to put two through the uprights despite harassment from the Nebraska special teams.**







# MEMORIES

NEBRASKA 49

OKLAHOMA ST. 15

October 12, 1991

On a beautiful day in Stillwater, the Huskers completely dominated the Cowboys en route to a 4-1 record.







**Derek Brown for one of his 18 carries against the Aggies.**

lasted only six seconds.

OSU tried to establish a ground game early in the contest, but it quickly found there was no place to go. Nebraska's often maligned Black Shirts stuffed OSU's runs up the gut and allowed the Cowboys even less yardage around the corners. In an effort to get Denson the ball so that he could try to jump start the sputtering Poke ground game, Jones sent him on quick slants across the middle for passing yardage. But after Denson was leveled by strong safety Steve Carmer after his first career reception on a 25-yard strike, Denson was seen little in the flats. Robert Kirksey paced the Pokes in receiving with 109 yards on six catches. Denson ended the game with 37 yards on three grabs. Coming into the game OSU averaged 137 yards through the air while the ground game had struggled, averaging just 98.5 on the ground.

"I think our defense played real well against the pass and the run today," Osborne said. "They've improved every game and I think when you put our top 11 out there, we're in real good shape."

In the fourth quarter Osborne inserted his second-string defense; the results were basically the same. Ford was pressured into throwing early and missed a streaking Russell Berrien on a third-and-eight play. Things only got worse for Ford as he was picked off by safety Ernie Beler on the second play of the Cowboys' next drive. Emotions erupted after the play as Beler was thrown into the end zone wall after returning the ball 22 yards to the OSU 11. "They were just getting tired of everything going wrong and their frustration just got out of hand," said Byrd.

OSU finally gave, what was left of the Cowboy faithful, what it had wanted throughout the game at the 4:19 mark. Denson took a Ford option and made a nifty move, cutting through the Husker front en route to a 14-yard touchdown run.

The win gave the Huskers its 18th straight and 30th combined over the hapless Cowboys. The lone blemish, other than losses in 1960 and 1961, was a 17-17 tie at Lewis Field in 1973. ■



**Byrd (No. 8) stops OSU runner Berrien.**

run, which capped off an eight-play, 95-yard drive, was the longest of the La Habra, Calif., native's career. "Brown knocked the breath out of me today," said Jones after the game. "He was everywhere you didn't want him to be, like the end zone."

Brown also scored on a 1-yard dive

into the end zone early in the second quarter and later on a 40-yard run in the fourth. Nebraska managed another ground score at the 13:01 mark in the fourth when backup quarterback Mickey Joseph scored on a keeper around the left side. Joseph's score was the only play in the drive which



## McCant, Byrd Showed 'Em

Many critics felt that because of the inexperience of the Black Shirt secondary and the lack of a solid passing game, Nebraska would have to rely on its ground attack to score another W and improve to 4-1 on the season. Saturday quarterback Keithen McCant and free safety Tyrone Byrd showed them differently.

McCant not only could run with ball when forced out of the pocket, but also showed the leadership and the arm that could guide the Huskers to a Big Eight title. McCant picked up OSU's blitzes most of the day and successfully called audibles at the line.

"I guess I had a good day, but it was all because of the guys blocking up front and the receivers this team has. We had to look for the big plays through the air sometimes and those guys had the biggest hand in making them happen."

With the loss of six players to the NFL draft last season, the Black Shirts needed someone to step to the front. Byrd did just that.

Byrd, a two-year starter who led the Huskers with five interceptions last year, racked up five tackles and broke up many passes that could have resulted in big gains on key OSU drives. After a 15-yard personal foul against Nebraska in the first quarter, Byrd quickly put a halt to the Pokes' short-lived



drive when he came within inches of picking off a Kenny Ford pass intended for Rafael Denson. Later in the third quarter, on a third-and-seven from the NU 44, Ford was picked off by Byrd at the 21-yard line and returned 14 yards. Byrd's first steal of the year eventually

**Left: McCant dives for yardage.**

**Below: Byrd runs back an "oskie."**



led to Derek Brown's 40-yard touchdown run.

"I tried to stay in front of the receiver and it just came to me," Byrd said. "We were able to make something happen with it so that always makes it worth more. I think this defense is getting better and soon we'll get the respect we deserve." ■

E X C E L L E N C E



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The Wildcats enter Saturday's game with a 4-1 record. It hasn't been that long ago the 'Cats would come crawling into Lincoln with an 0-4 or 0-5 record. Heck, it was only two years ago that Kansas State snapped a 30-game winless streak with a 20-17 victory over North Texas. The next week, K-State was thrashed 58-17 by the Huskers on its way to a 1-10 season.

Last year Kansas State snapped a winless streak against Division I-A foes with a 52-7 win over New Mexico State and a similar losing skein against Big Eight competition with a 23-17 victory over Oklahoma State. The 'Cats finished the campaign with a 5-6 mark and new-found confidence which carried over to this season. Home wins over Indiana State (26-25), Idaho State (41-7) and Northern Illinois (34-17) plus a road loss to fourth-ranked Washington (56-3) translated into a 3-1 start before last week's 16-12 Homecoming win against cross-state rival Kansas.

"Kansas State has definitely improved," Tom Osborne said. "They are a better team than they have been in the past. Our team is not inclined to take them lightly."

Third-year head coach Bill Snyder,



**Paul Watson (14): One of the best ever at Kansas State.**

the 1990 Associated Press Big Eight Conference Coach of the Year, is the man responsible for the dramatic turnaround in Manhattan. His confidence in the program and in his players boosted the 'Cats to new levels.

Speaking of new levels, Wildcat receiver Michael Smith (5-10, 160, sr.) is reaching them each week. He is currently fourth on the conference career receiving yardage chart and needs less than 400 yards to move past Johnny Rodgers and into second place. Smith racked up 12 receptions for 174 yards at Washington. To put Smith's game into perspective, his one-game totals would have ranked him fifth in receptions and receiving yards on last year's 11-game Kansas State final statistics.

The man throwing to Smith will be senior Paul Watson (6-2, 205). Against Kansas, Smith threw his 350th pass which qualified him to become Kansas State's most efficient passer in school history. He also moved into fifth on the school's passing chart with his 209-yard performance against KU. This week Watson should move past Steve Grogan and into fifth place on the school's all-time total offense chart. Several around the conference thought

## Looking Back: Game No. 6 — A Five-Year History

### **1990 — NU 69, Missouri 21 at Lincoln**

Leodis Flowers had 111 rushing yards on 16 carries and Mickey Joseph chipped in 95 yards on the ground and 65 through the air as Nebraska crushed Mizzou 69-21, the second-most points Nebraska has scored in Memorial Stadium.

Joseph had four short touchdown runs and tossed a 10-yard score to Jon Bostick to help the Huskers grab a 45-14 lead at intermission.

The Black Shirts were led by Le Andre Anderson, who had a team-high four stops in limited playing time

### **1989 — NU 50, Missouri 7 at Columbia**

The visiting Huskers jumped to a 26-0 first-quarter lead and never looked back in a rout of the Tigers. Gerry Gdowski had a touchdown throw of 19 yards to Morgan Gregory and ran for a 34-yard score. Two blocked punts resulted in nine Husker points to complete the opening stanza massacre.

Nebraska totalled 20 first downs on the ground while caging the Tigers for only six and 117 yards on 36 carries. The Black Shirts also held Missouri's potent passing game to 148 yards with no touchdowns. Reggie Cooper paced the defense with eight stops and recovery of a blocked punt for a score.

### **1988 — NU 63, Kansas 10 at Lawrence**

The Jayhawks (0-5 on the season) were flattened by 547 rushing yards and 38 first downs on a rainy day in Lawrence.

On route to a 28-0 first quarter lead, Steve Taylor ran for a 1-yard score and threw for a 22-yard touchdown to Todd Millikan. Tyreese Knox scampered for a 4-yard score and Morgan Gregory broke loose for a 64-yard scoring punt return.

Taylor completed seven-of-nine passes for 78 yards to become the fifth Husker player to pass the 4,000-yard career total offense mark.

### **1987 — NU 35, OSU 10 at Stillwater**

Oklahoma State's "Triplets" (Mike Gundy, Hart Lee Dykes and Thurman Thomas) were shut down by a potent defense on a sunny day in Stillwater.

The Cowboys could muster just 217 yards of total offense while Nebraska ground out 617. A national television audience (CBS) saw Nebraska jump to a 21-0 halftime lead.

Ken Clark and Keith Jones each had two touchdown runs.

### **1986 — NU 48, Missouri 17 at Lincoln**

Missouri drew first blood on a 27-yard field goal but the Huskers responded with 48 unanswered points to put the visitors away.

Tyreese Knox rumbled for two touchdowns (2 and 92 yards) on his way to a team-leading 127 yards on eight carries. Dana Brinson had a 63-yard scoring scamper and Dale Klein chipped in field goals of 44 and 21 yards to lead the 6-0 Huskers.



**WILDCATS 2-DEEP**(returning starters in **bold**)**OFFENSE**

WR	Andre Coleman	5-10	170	so.
	<b>F. Hernandez</b>	6-0	185	sr.
LT	<b>Mike Orr</b>	6-7	270	jr.
	Barrett Brooks	6-5	270	fr.
LG	T. Lawrence	6-3	280	jr.
	<b>Doug Warren</b>	6-5	285	sr.
C	<b>Q. Neujahr</b>	6-4	270	so.
	Casey Blim	6-2	275	jr.
RG	Eric Wolford	6-3	260	so.
	Josh Kolb	6-4	265	jr.
RT	<b>Doug Grush</b>	6-3	275	sr.
	<b>David Gleue</b>	6-3	275	sr.
TE	<b>Russ Campbell</b>	6-5	255	sr.
	Al Jones	6-4	245	sr.
QB	Paul Watson	6-2	205	sr.
	J. Smargiasso	6-2	210	so.
FB	Curtis Madden	6-0	230	sr.
	<b>Rod Schiller</b>	6-0	205	so.
RB	Eric Gallon	6-1	205	jr.
	Kitt Rawlings	5-11	175	so.
WR	<b>Michael Smith</b>	5-10	160	sr.
	Gerald Benton	5-8	155	jr.

**DEFENSE**

LE	<b>E. Alexander</b>	6-2	230	sr.
	John Butler	6-2	220	so.
LT	<b>E. Griffith</b>	6-0	265	jr.
	<b>Tony Williams</b>	6-4	295	jr.
NG	Kelly Greene	6-3	275	fr.
	<b>Evan Simpson</b>	5-11	315	sr.
RT	<b>Jody Kilian</b>	6-5	265	jr.
	Sean Dabney	6-3	255	so.
RE	R. Blackwell	6-2	205	jr.
	D. McBride	6-2	195	fr.
LB	Joe Boone	6-1	230	sr.
	<b>C. Patterson</b>	6-3	235	jr.
LB	<b>Brooks Barta</b>	6-0	215	jr.
	Brent Venables	6-1	230	jr.
LCB	<b>William Price</b>	6-1	200	sr.
	T. Gonzalez	5-10	170	sr.
FS	Jaime Mendez	6-0	195	so.
	Chris Sublette	6-0	185	fr.
SS	G. Patterson	6-1	190	jr.
	<b>C.J. Masters</b>	6-1	200	jr.
RCB	T. Randolph	5-10	170	so.
	<b>R. Green</b>	6-0	175	sr.

**HUSKERS 2-DEEP**(returning starters in **bold**)**OFFENSE**

SE	<b>Jon Bostick</b>	6-2	190	sr.
	Tyrone Hughes	5-10	175	jr.
LT	Erik Wiegert	6-5	300	sr.
	L. Lundberg	6-4	305	so.
LG	<b>Dave Jensen</b>	6-4	305	jr.
	Chris Zyzda	6-2	285	jr.
C	B. Ziegelbein	6-4	275	sr.
	Jim Scott	6-2	260	so.
RG	Will Shields	6-1	295	jr.
	T.J. Slansky	6-5	275	jr.
RT	<b>B. Boerboom</b>	6-7	310	sr.
	Zach Wiegert	6-5	310	fr.
TE	<b>W. Washington</b>	6-2	260	jr.
	J. Mitchell	6-3	260	so.
QB	B. McCant	6-2	200	sr.
	<b>M. Joseph</b>	5-10	180	sr.
FB	Lance Lewis	6-0	225	jr.
	Tim Johnk	5-11	215	sr.
TB	<b>Derek Brown</b>	5-9	180	so.
	Calvin Jones	5-11	205	fr.
WB	<b>Nate Turner</b>	6-2	220	sr.
	A. Muhammad	5-11	175	fr.

**DEFENSE**

OLB	<b>Travis Hill</b>	6-2	235	jr.
	Lance Gray	6-1	220	so.
LT	K. Ramaekers	6-4	290	so.
	Jamie Liewer	6-4	270	jr.
NG	Pat Engelbert	6-2	265	sr.
	David Noonan	6-3	275	so.
RT	John Parrella	6-5	290	jr.
	Brian Brown	6-6	280	sr.
OLB	David White	6-2	240	jr.
	Trev Alberts	6-4	235	so.
SLB	<b>Mike Petko</b>	6-3	230	sr.
	D. Williams	6-1	250	so.
WLB	M. Anderson	6-2	230	so.
	Ed Stewart	6-0	195	fr.
LCB	Curtis Cotton	6-1	210	sr.
	Kenny Wilhite	5-8	190	jr.
FS	<b>Tyrone Byrd</b>	6-0	175	jr.
	John Reece	6-0	205	so.
SS	<b>Steve Carmer</b>	6-2	210	jr.
	Troy Dumas	6-3	185	fr.
RCB	<b>T. Legette</b>	5-10	180	sr.
	Mike Heins	5-10	185	so.

the departure of Carl Straw would leave the 'Cat offense in shambles. They were sorely mistaken.

Running back Eric Gallon (6-1, 205, jr.) is bidding to become K-State's first 1,000-yard rusher since 1973. Through the nonconference portion of the slate, Gallon had galloped for 379 yards on 74 tries (5.1 yards per try). He missed most of the Washington contest with an injury. His bid for the 1,000-yard plateau is aided by the return of five starters on the offensive line.

On defense, there's no question who leads the unit. Linebacker Brooks Barta (6-0, 215, jr.) had 105 stops last season on his way to earning Sophomore All-American honors from *Football News* and second-team All-Big Eight recognition from AP. The 1989 Big Eight Defensive Newcomer of the Year currently leads the team in tackles and has four tackles for lost yardage. He is currently 15th on the career tackle chart and will break into the Top 10 by season's end.

Defensive end Elijah Alexander (6-2, 230, sr.) is on the border of breaking into the Top 20 in career tackles. He leads the team in quarterback sacks and is second in stops. At the other end, Reggie Blackwell (6-2, 205, jr.) edged out returning starter Chris Patterson for the job in fall drills and has responded with enough tackles to rank fourth on the team.

On the line, redshirt freshman Kelly Greene (6-3, 275) has replaced mammoth Evan Simpson (5-11, 315, sr.) as the starter at noseguard. Both should see playing time. Juniors Ekwensi Griffith (6-0, 265) and Jody Kilian (6-5, 265) returned after solid 1990 campaigns to post good numbers through the first five games of 1991.

Left cornerback William Price (6-1, 200, sr.) was the hero of the season-opening win against Indiana State. ISU had taken a 25-24 lead with 3:24 left in the game and the Sycamores decided to go for two points. Price stepped in front of Ray Allen's pass and returned it 102 yards for two points and a 26-25 Wildcat win. Price will also break into the Top 20 tackle chart later this season. Free safety Jaime Mendez (6-0, 195, so.) is tied for eighth on the career interception chart with seven.

Sophomore kicker Tate Wright returns after a solid 1990 campaign. However he has been unsteady in 1991, hitting just three of six attempts through the first five games. ■

**Key Matchups: NU versus Kansas St.**

**Wildcat linebacker Brooks Barta against the Husker inside running game** — Barta is the best player on the KSU defense. If the fullbacks and interior linemen can effectively block the talented junior, Nebraska's running game should have little problem. While a free Barta won't destroy the rushing attack, it could slow it somewhat.

**Kansas State's "Three Amigos" against the Nebraska secondary** — Michael Smith, Andre Coleman and Frank Hernandez comprise the best receiving corps that the Huskers will face this season. Quar-

terback Paul Watson doesn't have the arm of a Carl Straw, but his receivers are talented enough to turn a short pass into a long gain.

**Nebraska's offensive line against a new-look Kansas State defense** — The front of the Wildcat defense has a different look than it did when the two teams met last season. Noseguard Evan Simpson has been replaced by the quicker Kelly Greene. Ekwensi Griffith and Tony Williams, once starters at different positions, will alternate at left tackle. If Nebraska's line can push around K-State's revamped front, the sky is the limit.



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x x  
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# FOOTBALL FORECAST

"K-State is emotionally drained  
and that will do them in . . ."

Oct. 19, 1991  
Lincoln, Neb.  
Huskers vs. Wildcats  
Kickoff: 1:00 p.m. (CDT)

**Claudia Sangster, York News-Times:** "Being a Kansas State graduate I have to hope that the Wildcats can give Nebraska some sort of a game. Kansas State is stronger this season than many people expected them to be. But realistically they are not close to the caliber of OU, Nebraska or Colorado yet. It's always hard to come into Lincoln and win, but because of the increased productivity of Keithen McCant, it will be even tougher. Keithen showed in Stillwater that his passing skills have improved and that must give Osborne a lot of promise. Nebraska will probably draw on that ability again.

"Derek Brown should also have a big game and improve to six straight games of 100 yards or better. I'd say the score should end up around **Nebraska 42, KSU 10.**"

**John Ryan, Columbus Telegram:** "For the first time in 20 years, Kansas State will be coming into the game with a feeling of having a chance. But comparative records do not make comparative teams. The Wildcats are riding high on emotions from a 4-1 record, but when push comes to shove, NU's line will have the shove. Eventually the Husker depth across the front should wear down Kansas State.

"Keithen McCant, Derek Brown and company are coming into the game with not only confidence from the OSU win, but also from a 20-year winning streak. **Nebraska 42, Kansas State 20.**"

**Adam Doberr, Kansas State Collegian:** "Kansas State looks strong with an impressive. The record could be the emotional factor to paving a way for a win. Nebraska has looked formidable

so far and will attempt to dominate the game. Kansas State must play a perfect game on both sides of the ball. Their passing must be effective because the secondary is the problem for Nebraska. In the end, NU's size and depth may prove to be our biggest problem. **Nebraska by seven in a 27-20 win.**"

**Brent Wasenius, Fremont Tribune:** "Keithen McCant has his confidence now with the win over Oklahoma State under the Huskers' belt. With all engines running Nebraska should have little problem in the game. Look for a big win, **Nebraska 52, Kansas State 10.**"

**Dewey Terrill, KJAC-Junction City, Kansas:** "K-State is coming off of an emotional victory at Kansas where they scored two touchdowns in the fourth quarter. The Wildcats will be coming into Lincoln with the highest level of confidence possessed by a Kansas State team in Lincoln in a long time. They'll give Nebraska a good game, but I see it ending up **Nebraska 35, K-State 14.**"

**Nick Hytrek, The Daily Nebraskan:** "I think K-State is going to be emotionally drained by the time they come to Lincoln after the big win against Kansas. They are looking to make a name for themselves in the company of OU, Nebraska and Colorado. They are strong, but I wouldn't say they are strong enough to actively compete with Nebraska.

"They have a good passing attack and will move the ball on us. But there is no way they can stop our offense. We'll win **49-10.**"

**Tom Vint, Associated Press:** "Nebraska is finally building up the momentum that it has grown accustomed

to over the past years. I don't see the momentum swinging differently against Kansas State.

"Oklahoma State didn't have the numbers or the tools to slow down Nebraska. The K-State game should have similar results as the OSU game. **Nebraska 45, Kansas State 14.**"

**Travis Lawrence, Stillwater News-Press:** "I think this will actually be a good game to watch. Both Kansas State and Nebraska are in the top of the conference record-wise. K-State will have a long day against the overall size of the Huskers; it will be an awakening for the Wildcats. I like Derek Brown and Keithen McCant is one hell of a player. Kansas will play the Huskers close before succumbing to the size and depth of Nebraska. **Huskers by 28.**"

**Our Pick:** "Strange things are happening in Kansas, but soon the Huskers will right all that has gone weird. Kansas State has the momentum to play any team tough for at least a quarter, including Nebraska at home. Look for the Huskers to slap the Wildcats into reality as Nebraska will dominate both lines of scrimmage. Once again the Huskers will be picked on through the air, but if the front line can silence the K-State ground game, Nebraska will outscore the Wildcats by nearly a three to one margin. Nebraska has shown it can score with both the ground and air attack, so Osborne will likely mixup the play calling to keep Kansas State off balance. After all this is homecoming for Nebraska. That alone almost guarantees the Huskers a win. Look for a blowout at Memorial Stadium. **NU 51, KSU 14.**" ■



**Individual Stats**
**RUSHING**
**Nebraska**

PLAYER	ATT	YDS	LOST	LONG	TDS
Brown	18	143	0	61	3
McCant	10	55	7	28	0
Jones	5	45	0	19	0
Lewis	2	15	0	14	0
Joseph	2	13	0	11	1
Turner	1	6	0	6	0

**Oklahoma State**

PLAYER	ATT	YDS	LOST	LONG	TDS
Berrien	17	57	0	14	0
Denson	7	34	4	14	1
Franks	4	15	0	9	0
Sanders	1	0	1	-1	0
Ford	8	8	9	3	0

**PASSING**
**Nebraska**

PLAYER	ATT/COMP	INT	YDS	LONG	TDS
McCant	19-17	1	231	34	3
Joseph	2-0	0	0	0	0
Haase	2-0	0	0	0	0

**Oklahoma State**

PLAYER	ATT/COMP	INT	YDS	LONG	TDS
Ford	44-18	3	254	36	0

**RECEIVING**
**Nebraska**

PLAYER	NO	YDS	LONG	TDS
Hughes	5	77	34	1
Mitchell	4	47	17	1
Muhammad	2	38	31	1
Bostick	2	39	23	0
Turner	4	30	12	0

**Oklahoma State**

PLAYER	NO	YDS	LONG	TDS
Kirksey	6	109	36	0
Milliner	6	79	26	0
Denson	3	37	25	0
Cheatwood	2	23	18	0
Thompson	1	6	6	0

**PUNTING**
**Nebraska**

PLAYER	NO	YDS	LONG	AVG
Stigge	4	189	58	47.3

**Oklahoma State**

PLAYER	NO	YDS	LONG	AVG
Vincent	7	241	42	34.4

**PUNT RETURNS**
**Nebraska**

PLAYER	NO	YDS	LONG
Turner	1	4	4
Hughes	1	6	6

**Oklahoma State**

PLAYER	NO	YDS	LONG
Milliner	3	25	10

**Score by Quarter**

OSU	0	3	5	7	—	15
NU	14	7	7	21	—	49

**Team Statistics**

	NU	OSU
First downs	21	20
Rushing	10	7
Passing	11	10
Penalties	0	3
Rushing yardage	40-283	37-114
Yards lost rushing	10	14
Net yards rushing	273	100
Net yards passing	231	254
Passes attempted	23	44
Passes completed	17	18
Passes intercepted	1	3
Total plays	63	81
Total net yards	504	354
Avg. gain per play	8.0	4.4
Fumbles-lost	1-1	2-1
Penalties-yards	4-48	8-63
Interceptions-yards	3-36	1-0
Punt yards	4-189	7-241
Avg. per punt	47.3	34.4
Punt ret.-yards	2-10	3-25
Kickoff ret.-yards	4-88	7-138
Possession time	25:10	34:50
3rd down conv.	5-10	4-16
Sacks by	1-8	1-2

**Defensive Stats**
**Nebraska**

PLAYER	TACKLES		SACKS	YDS LOST
	SOLO	ASST		
Hill	1	0		
Ramaekers	0	1		
Engelbert	3	0		
Parrella	1	0		
White	2	1		
Petko	1	2		
Anderson	5	0		
Legette	1	0		
Carmer	7	2		
Byrd	4	1		
Leader	1	1		
Liewer	5	0		
Alberts	1	4		1
Williams	2	3		
Dumas	3	0		
Belser	6	1		
McDuffy	2	0		
Reece	3	0		
Wightman	2	0		

**Oklahoma State**

PLAYER	TACKLES		SACKS	YDS LOST
	SOLO	ASST		
Colbert	5	2		2
Thompson	2	1		
Gildon	0	2	1	2
Woolridge	3	6		
Nobles	5	4		
Clark	4	0		
Harmon	4	0		
Erving	3	2		
Gains	3	0		3
Satterwhite	3	0		1
Cannon	5	1		

**How They Scored**
**NU — OSU**
**Time**

	<b>First Quarter</b>	
7-0	Tyrone Hughes 34-yard pass from Keithen McCant (Byron Bennett kick)	10:46
14-0	Brown 61-yard run (Bennett kick)	2:29
	<b>Second Quarter</b>	
21-0	Brown 1-yard run (Bennett kick)	7:51
21-3	Rick Myers 33-yard field goal	1:50
	<b>Third Quarter</b>	
28-3	Johnny Mitchell 8-yard pass from McCant (Bennett kick)	10:20
28-5	Jason Gilden safety of McCant	5:53
28-8	Myers 37-yard field goal	4:42
	<b>Fourth Quarter</b>	
35-8	Brown 40-yard run	14:52
42-8	Abdul Muhammad 31-yard pass from McCant (Bennett kick)	13:26
49-8	Mickey Joseph 11-yard run (Bennett kick)	13:01
49-15	Rafael Denson 14-yard run (Myers kick)	4:19



The win marked the 30th consecutive game that Nebraska has not lost to Oklahoma State.

Tom Osborne is now 8-0 against Cowboy Head Coach Pat Jones. Both mentors entered the season ranked among the Top 15 winningest active coaches.

Nebraska continues to lead the Big Eight in scoring. With 218 points in five games, the Huskers are averaging over 43 points per outing.

Keithen McCant began the game by

completing eight consecutive passes but the skein was stopped when Andre Thompson batted a pass into the air and pulled it down for the interception. That allowed OSU to continue its streak of 10 consecutive games with an interception.

Nebraska has now won 17 straight conference openers.

Lows included the Husker secondary giving up a career-best 254 yards to Cowboy quarterback Kenny Ford.

The No. 14 ranking Nebraska

brought to Stillwater was the lowest that the Huskers have been ranked heading into the OSU contest since they were unranked prior to the 1969 contest. However with the upsets in the Top 10, Nebraska is a sure lock to move up in the polls this week.

On the Cover: Keithen McCant had a stellar day against the Pokes, but gave the credit to his line and blockers. All game photos by Greg Phillips.

## AROUND THE BIG EIGHT

### Oklahoma 7 Texas 10

The fifth-ranked Sooners suffered their third consecutive heart-breaking loss in three years to arch-enemy Texas. The loss dropped Oklahoma to 4-1 while Texas evened its record at 2-2.

Oklahoma took a 7-0 lead in the first quarter as sophomore quarterback Cale Gundy connected with Ted Long for a 24-yard touchdown. The score marked only the second touchdown scored by OU in the opening stanza in 1991.

Texas responded with a 30-yard field goal to slice the lead to 7-3 at halftime. The Longhorns scored the winning points with 13:30 remaining in the game. The Sooners scraped their plans to throw the ball and relied only on the run. Senior fullback Mike McKinley churned through the middle for a gain of 5 yards but was stripped of the ball. Reserve cornerback Bubba Jacques scooped up the loose pigskin on a dead run and sprinted 30 yards into the end zone to the delight of the orange-clad fans in the north end of the Cotton Bowl.

Oklahoma had one last chance to score after Charles Franks intercepted a Peter Gardere pass with 2:14 remaining but Gundy was sacked three times to end any threat.

### Kansas State 16 Kansas 12

The Wildcats improved to 4-1 on the season with a Homecoming win over their cross-state rivals.

A crowd of 40,856, the largest in Manhattan in eight years, tore down the goalposts as the final gun sounded in celebration of K-State's first victory over the Jayhawks since 1986.

Paul Watson provided the winning points as he found Andre Coleman in the end zone with 1:58 remaining. That score enabled the Wildcats to overcome six turnovers. Watson had 209 yards on the day but was sacked three times and intercepted once.

Kansas appeared to have the game won after Robert Vaughn intercepted Watson at the Wildcat 17 late in the game. But the Jayhawks couldn't convert a fourth-and-one play from the 6 where Watson took over and directed a 14-play, 94-yard drive to win the game.

### Colorado 55 Missouri 7

No fifth down was needed this season as Darian Hagan threw for two touchdowns and rushed for 101 yards to lead the host Buffaloes to the victory.

Colorado totalled 656 total yards, including 502 on the ground. The Buffs led 24-0 at intermission but capitalized on three Mizzou turnovers to score on their first five possessions of the second half and put the game away.

The loss was the Tigers' seventh consecutive to Colorado and dropped the visitors to 2-2-1 on the year.

### Top 10 Action . . .

In possibly the biggest matchup of the day, Joe Paterno's Penn State squad travelled to Miami and came up just short in a 26-20 loss.

The second-ranked Hurricanes broke a 6-6 deadlock at halftime with a Gino Torretta 80-yard touchdown pass to Horace Copeland to grab the lead for good over the ninth-ranked Nittany Lions.

Florida State held on to its No. 1 spot

with a tough 33-20 win over Virginia Tech in Orlando. It was the fifth consecutive road game for the Hokies.

Elsewhere in the Top 10, No. 3 Washington ended nonconference play by ripping Toledo 48-0. Fifth-ranked Michigan clubbed Michigan State 45-28 and No. 7 Notre Dame beat No. 12 Pittsburgh 42-7 in a heated game at South Bend. No. 8 Baylor was upset at home by Rice 20-17. Trevor Cobb, the NCAA's leading rusher, had 171 yards against Baylor's rock-solid defense.



### CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Team	*W	L	T	PF	PA
Oklahoma	1	0	0	29	8
Nebraska	1	0	0	49	15
Kansas St.	1	0	0	16	12
Colorado	1	0	0	55	7
Kansas	0	1	0	12	16
Oklahoma St.	0	1	0	15	49
Missouri	0	1	0	7	55
Iowa St.	0	1	0	8	29

### OVERALL

Team	W	L	T	PF	PA
Oklahoma	4	1	0	158	58
Kansas St.	4	1	0	120	117
Nebraska	4	1	0	218	102
Kansas	3	2	0	138	85
Colorado	3	2	0	178	64
Missouri	2	2	1	109	169
Iowa St.	2	3	0	94	105
Oklahoma St.	0	5	0	49	156

\* Wins-Losses-Tie-Points For-Points Against



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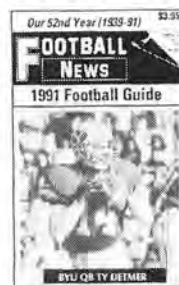
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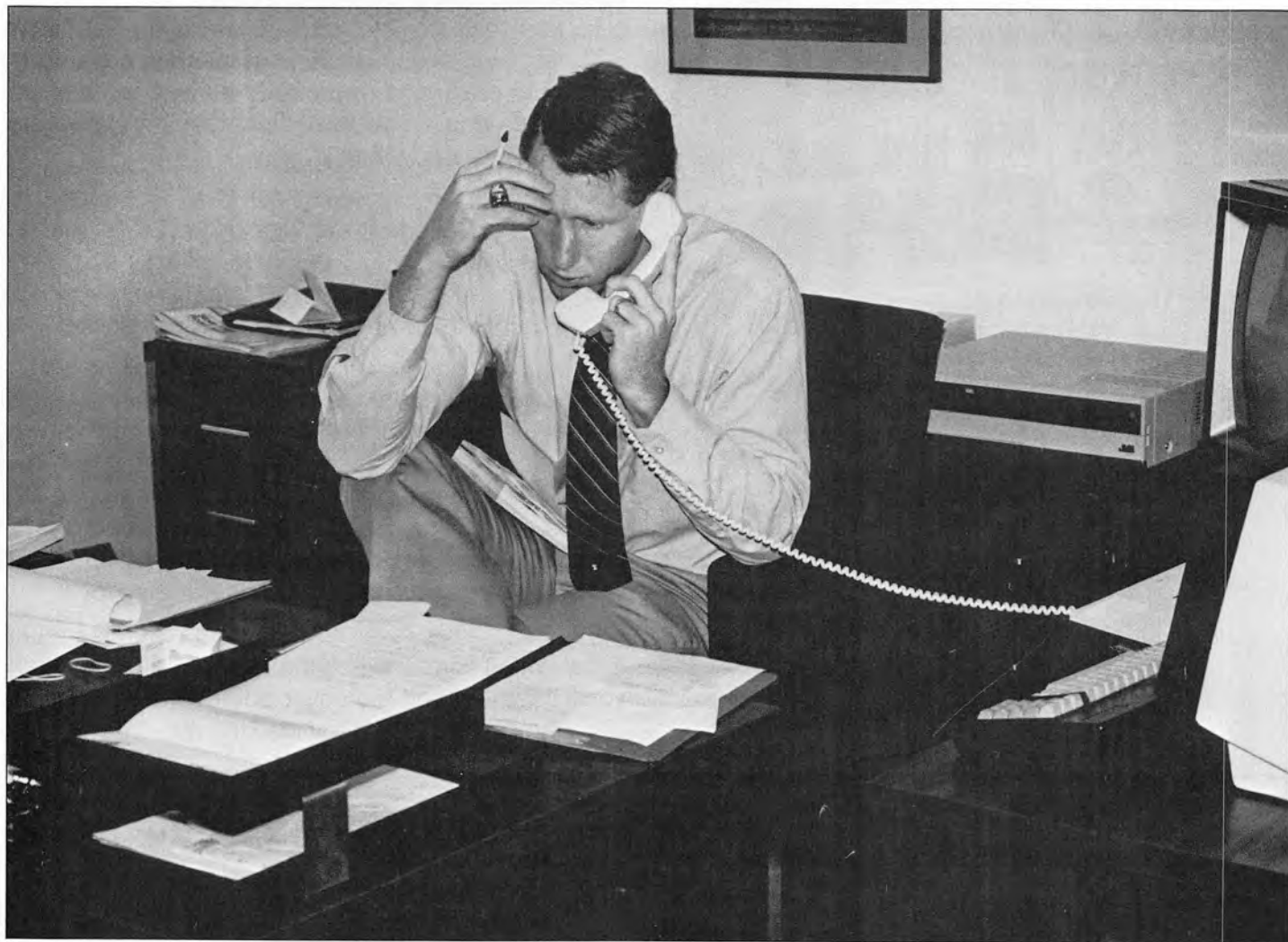


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The recruiting game has never been

easy. If most coaches were honest they would tell you they would love to do away with recruiting all together. But it's a necessary evil and getting more difficult each year with tougher rule changes coming forth from the NCAA.

Nebraska annually recruits some of the best talent in the country. Husker Recruiting Coordinator Dave Gillespie talked with about us about the challenge of recruiting in the '90s.

*Q: Do you have a general recruiting philosophy or is that something that changes every year?*

Gillespie: We want to recruit the best athlete that best exemplifies the highest possible degree of athletic talent, academic readiness and character. The entire recruiting process helps determine whether a prospective athlete meets those standards.

*Q: Nebraska is not a heavily populated*



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state, so you recruit very heavily outside of the state. How well are your programs received on a national basis?

Gillespie: We would like to think that our reputation is good enough to go into most parts of the country and be somewhat successful. Most of the time when we recruit an instate player, we certainly have the advantage of being the only university in the state.

We don't take anything for granted with an instate player and we recruit both types of players very hard. We seem to have had success in the past in, primarily California, Texas, New Jersey and Louisiana. Those states have provided us with more out of state players than others over the past seven or eight years.

Often times you get one or two kids out of that area and they do well in your program. They are pretty high profile, and as a result, a pipeline gets developed in that area. That's the case with New Jersey, going back to Rich Glover through Mike Rozier and Irving Fryer. Or, just traditionally you've signed a number of players out of a certain re-

gion due to strong alums in that area. Southern California is an example of this. We generally, wherever we go, seem to be well received. Coach Osborne's excellent reputation is pervasive everywhere in the country, which is certainly very helpful to us.

*Q: Go over the recruiting structure at your school and describe the communication that has to take place between you and the coaches out on the road for the recruiting campaign to be a success.*

Gillespie: Pat Studeman is the recruiting secretary and provides a great deal of assistance, particularly the record keeping, which is very important when dealing with the new guidelines set down by the NCAA. She is also in charge of all the correspondence that we do, which is a large undertaking that continues on a year 'round basis. Of course our graduate assistants are always involved in helping with the process. We also have a couple of students that we hire to help with phone calls and general office work. Communication and coordination of our efforts, while our coaches are off in different

directions all over the country, is paramount to success. Our coaches do a fine job of keeping in touch and working through this office. That allows everyone to work with the same goal in mind which leads to success more often than not.

*Q The NCAA has set up new recruiting guidelines that deal directly with recruiting for the coming year. Coaches are restricted now more than ever in the amount of times they can make contact with a prospect recruit and the amount of phone calls to that athlete. What are your feelings about the new recruiting restrictions?*

Gillespie: If I didn't work here and I was on the outside looking in, I would probably say that there are some advantages to the moves in terms of the contacts and telephone calls to prospects and trying to cut that down a little bit. However, I think from the stand point of working here at Nebraska, I think there is some inequity in those rules and I think it unfairly effects schools that are in Nebraska's situation, more so than it does schools that have the

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advantage of having a large population base. It's much more difficult for us, with restrictive number of telephone calls and contacts, to develop a rapport with a kid in California with these new rules than it ever has been before, as apposed to a UCLA, USC or Miami who can bring those kids in on unofficial visits to their games as many times as they want. Those type of schools are just given such a big advantage over the schools that are in sparsely populated areas like Nebraska.

*Q: How much of an impact does winning and losing play in recruiting each year and does a particular game in a season determine where a prospective athlete might attend school?*

Gillespie: I think ultimately wins and losses become important in recruiting. If you are a team that consistently loses more than they win, then that makes recruiting a little more difficult. But I think if you are talking about specific games here and there, I don't know if that game has an impact on your recruiting. Maybe if it is a huge game in magnitude, then it could have an effect. It's more the overall impression that they have in your school, not necessarily one particular win or a loss.

If you would have to choose a game that is fairly critical to your recruiting, it would be a bowl game. Not so much what effect it has on a recruit but what effect it has on your staff. It can be very difficult sometimes, come January 2nd if you lost your bowl game, to get out on the road with enthusiasm. However, in cases where that has happened, our guys have done a great job. It is the last impression that a recruit has of your program and that may sway them one way or the other, but it also has an effect on us we go out and try to do a job.

*Q: What are your thoughts on the various recruiting services and publications across the country?*

Gillespie: If we didn't have so many restrictions placed on us by the NCAA, there would be less need for the recruiting services. However, the way things are now, the state that college athletics are in now, I think the services are something that have value to our recruiting efforts. We use them from an information standpoint and a gathering of names standpoint. We try not to put a lot of stock in the evaluating importance of recruiting services even though I am sure many of them are good at that. We just depend on our own resources when it comes to evaluation. ■



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### Coaching Alums

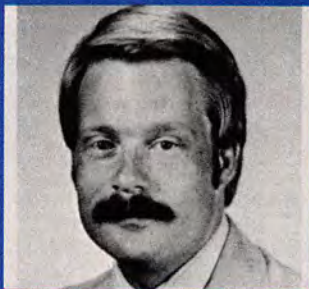
While the weekly recaps of NFL action enables most conference football fans to track the efforts of their favorite Big Eight products, following the other professionals who have passed through the league on their way to the pros is more difficult. Just as players come to college hoping to move on to the next level, so do the members of the coaching staffs around the league. Granted, some get to make the choice as to when and where they are headed, but most have that decision made for them. This week, we'll survey the AFC coaching staffs and front offices to locate some Big Eight alums who have made it to the top. We'll survey the NFC in a later issue.

## AFC EAST



### Buffalo Bills

Tight end Coach Dan Lawrence coached at Kansas State (1964-1965) and Missouri (1976-1977). Special teams Coach Bruce DeHaven coached and served as recruiting coordinator at Kansas (1979-81). Chuck Lester, who serves as head coach Marv Levy's Administrative Assistant, was a walkon linebacker at Oklahoma in 1974 and later served as graduate assistant and administrative assistant to Barry Switzer. He also coached linebackers at Iowa State in 1980-81.



Chuck Lester



### New England Patriots

Apparently the Patriots will try anything to improve on a 1-15 season as they have followed the Dolphins by having no conference personnel on their roster. Maybe they should rethink that move.



### New York Jets

General Manager Dick Steinberg coached for three seasons at Kansas State (1967-69). Defensive coordinator Pete Carroll coached for one season at Iowa State (1978). Offensive line coach Larry Beightol was the offensive coordinator at Missouri from 1983-84. Ron Wolf, Director of Player Personnel, graduated from Oklahoma in 1963. Bob Wylie, who assists with the offensive linemen and tight ends, played for three years at Colorado in the early 1970s. Scout Ron Nay coached at Kansas in 1970.

## AFC CENTRAL



### Indianapolis Colts

Special teams and tight end Coach Brad Seely spent five years as the offensive line coach at Oklahoma State (1984-89). Scout Clyde Powers was a three-year letterman and All-Big Eight safety at Oklahoma in 1973. He previously served as the club's Director of Player Personnel.



### Cincinnati Bengals

Linebacker Coach Dick Selcer was the defensive coordinator at Kansas State from 1975-77. Special teams Coach Marv Braden was the head man on defense at Iowa State in 1973.



### Miami Dolphins

There will be no Big Eight reunions in the Dolphin camp this season because there are currently no conference connections in Miami.



### Cleveland Browns

Inside linebacker Coach Jim Bates coached linebackers at Kansas State from 1975-76. Bates is in his first year of NFL experience after 22 years on the collegiate level.





### Houston Oilers

Former Oklahoma State Head Coach Jim Stanley is in his third season with the Oilers as the defensive line coach. Stanley has been in the professional ranks since leaving OSU after the 1978 season, with stops with the Giants (1979), Falcons (1980-82), Buccaneers (1986) and a stint as the head coach of the Michigan Panthers of the USFL (1983-84) thrown in.



### Kansas City Chiefs

Offensive coordinator Joe Pendry served in the same capacity at Kansas State in 1975. Receivers Coach Al Saunders held the same position at Missouri in 1972. Strength and conditioning Coach Dave Redding was a three-year letterman at defensive end for Nebraska and later served as conditioning coach at Missouri (1978-81). He was with the Browns from 1982-88 before joining the Chiefs in 1989.



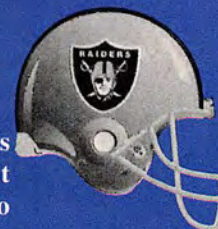
### Pittsburgh Steelers

Former Kansas Head Coach (1986-87) Bob Valesente is in his second year as the Steelers' line-backer coach. He was an assistant under Mike Gottfried at Kansas from 1984-85 before assuming the head coaching duties. Former OSU All-American Jon Kolb is in his 10th year as a coach and 23rd year overall with the Steelers. He oversees all the conditioning programs for the Steelers in addition to coaching the tight ends for the past three years. One of 22 players to play on all four Steeler Super Bowl teams, Kolb is one of three Steelers to play for and coach for head man Chuck Knoll. Defensive backfield coach John Fox coached at both Iowa State (1984) and Kansas (1985-86).



**Bob Valesente**

### Los Angeles Raiders



Defensive backs coach Odis McKinney was an All-Big Eight defensive back from Colorado in 1976-77. Scout Kent McCloughan is in his 26th year with the Raiders as a player (1965-70) and scout. He was a standout at Nebraska in the mid-1960s, leading the league in scoring in 1964. His son, Dave, was a standout at Colorado.



### San Diego Chargers

Offensive backs Coach Bobby Jackson was defensive coordinator at Kansas State from 1970-74. Director of Player Personnel Rudy Feldman coached at Iowa State (1957) and Oklahoma (1958-62).

## AFC WEST



### Denver Broncos

Bronco owner Pat Bowlen earned degrees in business (1965) and law (1968) from Oklahoma. Defensive coordinator Wade Phillips coached at both Oklahoma State (1973-74) and Kansas (1975). Offensive coordinator Mike Shanahan began his coaching career at Oklahoma (1975-76). Tight end Coach Harold Richardson spent time at Oklahoma State. Director of Player Personnel Reed Johnson was a defensive back at Colorado in the early 1960s and also coached at Oklahoma State. Scout Ken Blair was an all-conference selection at Colorado as a tight end and also coached for the Buffs from 1963-70. Scout Hugh Davidson coached at Colorado from 1954-58.



### Seattle Seahawks

Assistant head coach and Defensive Coordinator Tom Catlin was a two-time All-American at Oklahoma under Bud Wilkinson in the early 1950s. Defensive back Rod Perry was an All-Big Eight selection at Colorado in 1974. Offensive line Coach Kent Stephenson worked at Oklahoma State (1977-78) and Kansas (1979-82). Area scout Warren Harper spent 15 years as a linebacker coach and administrative assistant at Oklahoma.



## Williams makes the most of his chance

Former Husker tight end Jamie Williams has made a solid name for himself as one of the best blocking tight ends in the NFL, but has never been considered a "go-to" guy when it came to passing the football. After grabbing 102 passes in his first three NFL seasons with Houston, Williams has caught just 31 balls over the last four years (two with Houston and two with San Francisco). But after Brent Jones went down with a knee injury early

this season Williams has catches through the first five games, one more than his final total this season. He's still looking for the end zone. He hasn't scored a regular season touchdown since 1987.

## Thomas on track for career year

Tampa Bay linebacker Broderick Thomas has been one of the few bright spots in an otherwise dismal campaign for the Bucks. Even though they were 1-5, Thomas was nearing new career highs.

He far-and-away led Tampa Bay with 67 total tackles, just five away from his 16-game total of 72 last year. He was also credited with three sacks and a career-high four fumbles caused. His fumble total is just three shy of Wally Chambers' club mark set in 1979.

## Sanders update

Our weekly rehash of the latest heroics by Barry Sanders shows him to be just off pace in becoming only the third running back to rush for 2,000 yards in a season. By leading a thrilling comeback against Minnesota, Sanders picked up his first 100-yard day versus the Vikings (113) and became the first Lion since Billy Sims to rush for over 100 yards in four straight games. Minnesota had held him to 144 yards in two games last season. The Lions are now 10-5 in games in which he tops the century mark, including five straight wins. The Lions were 18-18 after his first 36 pro games, but ironically he has averaged more yards per carry in the 18 losses (5.5) than in the 18 wins (4.8). His game-winning touchdown gave him 37 career touchdowns and moved him past Mel Farr into fourth place on the Lions' all-time list. Terry Barr and Leonard Thompson were tied for second with 38 behind Sims' club-record total of 47. Why so much success for Sanders? "The thing that we're doing with Barry is that we're continuing to give him the football," Head Coach Wayne Fontes said. "We know that the more we give him the ball, good things will continue to happen. So we just have to keep giving him the ball and block for him and let the young man do his thing."

## Around the league

Erik McMillan's 83-yard interception return against Miami in Week Five was the second longest in Jets history. The longest? McMillan's 92-yard return against Indianapolis on October 1, 1989... Dexter Manley has racked up three sacks for the Bucs as a pass rush specialist to give him 94 in his career. He ranks fifth on the NFL's all-time chart in sacks, but that only covers sacks since 1982 when the stat became officially recognized by the league. . . Rookie Mike Pritchard of the Falcons, by way of Colorado, led Atlanta in receiving in two of the first five games and was tied with Pro Bowler Andre Rison for the team lead with 19 catches. ■

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# Workin' Out Depth Problems

**D**anny Nee is being especially careful not to overwork his sixth Nebraska basketball team as it goes through two-a-day practices in preparation for the season-opener against Sam Houston State at the Bob Devaney Sports Center on Nov. 23.

"We'll have to be really careful about getting the players in top condition without wearing them down," Nee said recently.

Part of the reason for that is the Cornhuskers' lack of numbers. Nee had only 13 healthy players when preseason practice began Oct. 15.

There would have been 14, but just two weeks before the start of two-a-days, redshirted sophomore Bruce Chubick suffered a fractured bone in his left foot. The injury occurred during preseason conditioning drills, while Chubick was running on the Ed Weir Stadium track.

"It looks like he may have had a problem with it (the foot) already," said Jerry Weber, an assistant trainer and physical therapist for the team. "He'll

definitely be sidelined until the start of the season." And possibly longer.

Chubick underwent surgery to insert a screw in the bone. The injury was similar to one suffered by former Cornhusker Clifford Scales, according to Nee, who learned of the accident while he was on a recruiting trip.

With Chubick sidelined, only four proven players among those on whom Nee will count most heavily this season are practicing — seniors Carl Hayes, Dapreis Owens and Chris Creswell and sophomore Eric Piatkowski.

The other three who figure prominently in Nee's plans are junior college transfers Derrick Chandler and Michael Hughes and sophomore Jamar Johnson, who couldn't practice or play last season because he didn't meet freshman eligibility require-



With Toledo transfer Tom Best (above) sitting out a mandatory redshirt season and only a small group returning, Nee will look to Michael Hughes (top of page) and returner Chris Creswell (left) to carry a lot of responsibility.



ments under the NCAA's Proposition 48.

Johnson, Chandler and Hughes all will need time to adapt to a new environment and settle into Nee's system. Even so, "I'm very confident in our new people," Nee said.

"I feel very comfortable with the veterans. We've just got to block things together and see where our weaknesses are going to be."

Johnson, in particular, must play a key role if the Cornhuskers are to be successful; he's their only point guard. Hughes also can play the point, but at 6-foot-7, he's more of a big guard/small forward.

Three of the 13 healthy players are walkons, including newcomers Matt Mar from Lincoln, Neb., Northeast High School and Jason Peterson from Oakland-Craig High in Nebraska. Peterson is a sophomore on the golf team.

The other walkon is junior J.F. Hoffman from Cambridge, Neb., who played in six games and earned a letter last season.

Tom Best, a transfer



Chandler (left) won't find much time to rest once the season starts, but Hayes (below, standing center) and Piatkowski (sitting) have already had to work as team leaders.



from Toledo, can practice, but he will sit out a mandatory redshirt season. Terrance Badgett, one of two freshman scholarship recruits, also will redshirt, while Jason Glock, the other scholarship freshman, will play.

"That's the plan, anyway. I've talked to both of them," Nee said, "but it could change tomorrow."

Badgett is from South High in Omaha. Glock is from Wahoo.

Nebraska's practice problem



## 1991-92 Nebraska Basketball Roster

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	CLASS	EXP.	HOMETOWN (High School)
00	Owens, Dapreis	F	6-8	225	Sr.	3VL	Mansfield, Ohio
12	Johnson, Jamar	G	6-0	180	So.	*	Elkhart, Ind. (Concord)
14	Hoffman, J.F.	G	6-1	185	Jr.	1VL	Holbrook, Neb. (Cambridge)
21	Hayes, Carl	F	6-8	195	Sr.	2VL	Chicago, Ill. (St. Joseph)
23	Hughes, Carl	G/F	6-7	180	Jr.	*	Peoria, Ill.
24	Cresswell, Chris	G	6-4	190	Sr.	2VL	Merced, Calif.
30	Glock, Jason	F	6-4	190	Fr.	*	Wahoo, Neb.
34	Chandler, Derrick	F	6-10	245	Jr.	*	Mitchellville, Md. (DeMatha)
43	Badgett, Terrance	F	6-7	185	Fr.	*	Omaha, Neb. (South)
44	Chubick, Bruce	F	6-7	210	So.	1VL	Atkinson, Neb. (West Holt)
52	Piatkowski, Eric	F	6-6	190	So.	1VL	Rapid City, S.D. (Stevens)

\* indicates no experience because of transfer or new to the squad.



is, "we're going to have a tough time getting realistic competition. It won't even be close if Carl Hayes isn't guarding Eric Piatkowski, no challenge," Nee said.

And there is no one to match up against the 6-10, 245-pound Chandler, a transfer from Alvin Texas Community College, who figures to be Nebraska's center this season.

Owens can push Chandler some, even though he's not a center. But when Nee works with a big lineup including Owens and Chandler, there's no one left to guard Chandler. And players

can't improve if they aren't challenged.

To compensate, "we'll do more breakdown work and less 'reds' against 'whites' (full scrimmaging)," Nee said. "We'll have to be more innovative. The fun part of coaching is the creativity, doing something for a couple of days and then adjusting."

Successful coaches make all of their major adjustments during the preseason. "Last year, we adjusted maybe five to 10 percent during the season," Nee said. "It was very minor."

Despite the lack of numbers, Nebraska will continue to play an up-

tempo style of offense.

"You can take that to the bank," Nee said. "It's a constant."

To that end, the Cornhusker guards will have to concentrate more on rebounding this season, according to Nee, because Nebraska won't have an abundance of height.

#### Around the horn . . .

Chandler, who had 15 blocked shots in eight games playing for the National Junior College Athletic Association's all-star team in an international tournament in Taipei, Taiwan, over the summer, underwent shoulder surgery to have cartilage removed during the off-season.

The Cornhuskers are practicing on a schedule of three days on, one day off. Under newly instituted NCAA rules, teams are limited to 20 hours of practice a week and are required to have one in every seven days off.

"We're well within those parameters," Nee said. "We'll never get in 20 hours in a week."

The downside of Chubick's injury, of course, is that he's sidelined for about six weeks. There's an upside, however, too. While playing with the Big Eight Select Team in Italy in August, Chubick contracted a virus, which caused him to lose nearly 30 pounds. For a time, there was concern that he had an ulcer, Chubick said.

In any case, while waiting for his left foot to heal to the point that he can begin working out, "Bruce is going to have a chance to gain the weight back," Nee said.

A healthy Chubick will figure into Nee's plans this season.

Not all of the news Nee has received recently has been bad. The last week in September, Erick Strickland, a two-time Super-Stater in both football and basketball at Bellevue, Neb., West High School held a news conference to announce that he would sign a letter of intent with Nebraska during the NCAA's early signing period in November.

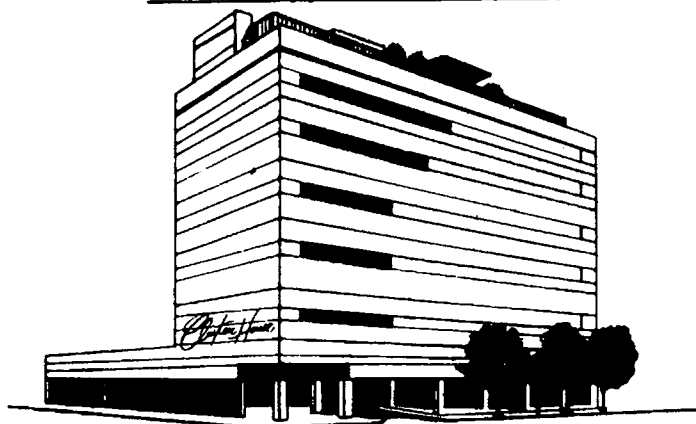
Strickland had indicated he was leaning toward an oral commitment to the Cornhuskers. He and his parents made an official recruiting visit to Nebraska in mid-September, after which he canceled a visit to Colorado.

"I felt that I have a home there," Strickland said of Nebraska. "They treat their athletes as a family. When I go down there on visits, they talk to me as if I was one of them already." ■

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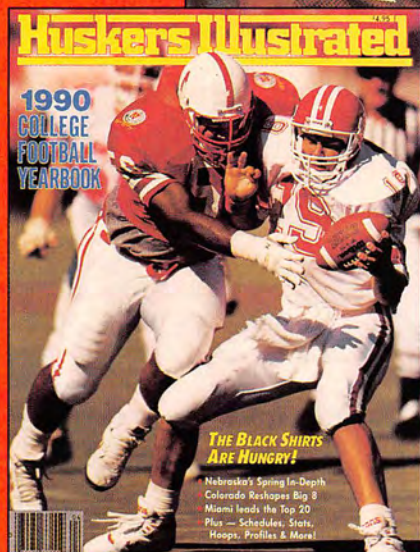
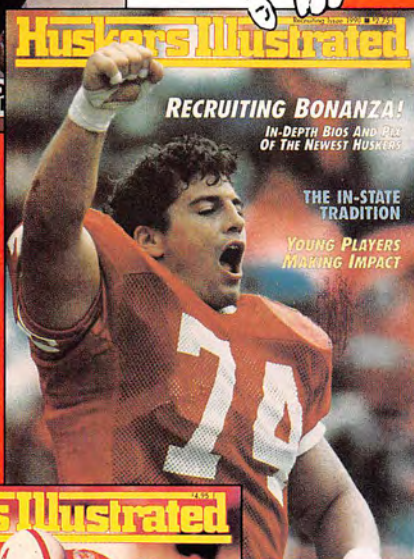


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## VIEW FROM SOUTH STADIUM

It has been rumored that you will be stepping down as the head coach at Nebraska some time soon. I want you to know that that will be a sad day for us faithful Husker fans. I think you are one of the greatest to ever coach in this game. Your teams are winners and always show a great deal of class.

It seems that today every coach that retires, goes into broadcasting no matter if they have a personality or not. Would you ever consider going into broadcast after you retire and do you have any plans yet? I was also wondering what you think of coaches that go into the television field. Steve Treat  
Seattle, Wash.

**Osborne:** *I enjoy coaching as much as I ever have and I am not planning on stepping down any time soon. Thanks for your support of me and our program.*

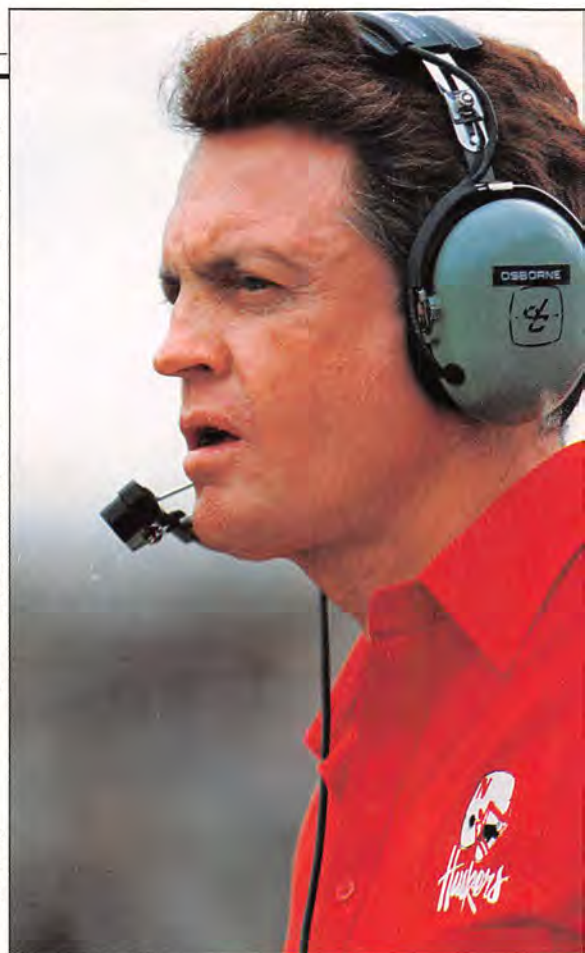
*Many coaches do retire and go into broadcasting. Since I am not planning on retiring any time soon, I haven't considered going into broadcasting. I am all for coaches who go into broadcasting and television if that is what they want to do.*

I wanted to write this letter, but at the same time I don't want to come across as a female activist who is just trying to start trouble. I have been a Nebraska supporter for the last 10 years and I have no reason to stop.

It seems to me that society is finally realizing that the women can be a productive cog in society. You can now see women in politics, management positions and even on the Supreme Court. But how long do you think it will be until women will be coaching in the college football ranks? I know that last season Rick Pitino hired a woman assistant basketball coach at Kentucky. Would you ever consider hiring a woman and do you have one currently on your staff?

I hope I didn't come across badly because I really think the world of you and your great program at Nebraska. Cathy Willis  
Chicago, Ill.

**Osborne:** *We do not have a female coach on our staff at this time. I am not aware of many women football coaches in high school or college.*



*Women have become more involved recently in football, especially as journalists and football commentators. I suppose someday there will be a woman college football coach.*

I have noticed there are two football players on the Nebraska roster that are not Americans. Can you explain how we were able to land players from outside the United States. Jack Higgins  
Omaha, Neb.

**Osborne:** *Terris Chorney wrote a letter to us and included a tape of his football ability and after looking at the tape, we decided that we would let him walk on. He did and started at center on our freshman team and has since earned a scholarship.*

Brett Poppelwell was a foreign exchange student last year who lived with Lincoln Southeast High School Coach Chuck Mizerski. Both Brett and Chuck gave us some video tape of Brett's playing ability in Australia and, after reviewing it, we felt that he was a very good receiver. We also asked Brett to walk on. Brett is a true freshman this year and is redshirting.

*If you have questions for Coach Osborne, please address them to View From South Stadium, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb., 68501.*




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